CUC says FAC remains the same for September. PAGE 5
FEMA to award $10.9M to the CNMI for virus response. PAGE 6

75¢

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 173

www.saipantribune.com | TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

IPI wants to pay $15.5M license fee by year 2029

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» IPI accuses CNMI govt of breaching deal; asks to cut CCC $3M regulatory fee to $1M

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has asked the CNMI government that it be allowed to postpone paying the $15.5 million annual casino license fee that it failed to pay last Aug. 12 to the year 2029—on the 15th year of the casino license.

Saying that IPI may be required to remain closed for the rest of this year due to the government-mandated shutdown, IPI is also asking to reduce the Commonwealth Casino Commission's $3 million regulatory fee to $1 million since the cessation of gaming in the CNMI means less oversight efforts.

In a letter on Aug. 26 to Gov.

See IPI on Page 4

File photo shows part of the Imperial Pacific Saipan casino that is still under construction.
KRIZEL TUAZON

'Phenomenal interest in pot industry but…'

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Zoning law poses roadblocks

The CNMI Cannabis Commission and Rep. Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan) have seen what they describe as "phenomenal interest" in the cannabis or marijuana industry in the CNMI, but noted that there are some roadblocks due of the Saipan zoning law that needs to be amended.

Maratita

Maratita, who chairs the House Cannabis Committee, said in an interview last Wednesday that she has received information that, out of many applicants, the commission has so far issued only three Homegrown Marijuana Registry cards. That's because there is a need to make some minor amendments to the zoning law, whose permitting requirements have become roadblocks in the issuance of homegrown marijuana registry cards.

"Zoning is actually a setback on the home growers," she said. "The problem is that home growers…have to, for example, comply with [some rules similar to the] poker industry, like [staying] 500 feet away from the church

See POT on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Aug. 31, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	1,287	60	1,347
Recovered	488	0	488
Active	789	60	849
Deaths	10	0	10
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		37,074	

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	56	0	56
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		12,920*	

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted to not report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Senate OKs bill suspending certain election laws

The Senate passed Friday a bill that will suspend certain CNMI election laws for the Nov. 3 general elections to mitigate the public health risks due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Manglona

At a session on Rota, senators unanimously passed Senate Bill 21-68, SD2 that will extend the early voting time to 21 days and add more polling places.

Introduced by Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), the bill will extend the hours of operations for early voting and election day.

Senate clerk Dolores S. Bermudes transmitted the bill

See SENATE on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan has reopened World Café, offering diners the same buffet goodness.

PAGE 11

NATION
In a matter of hours last week, Hurricane Laura tore through the tire shop Layla Winbush's family.

PAGE 12

LIFE & STYLE
Lady Gaga cleaned house at the 2020 MTV Video Music Awards, while The Weeknd took home the top prize.

PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

'Savings possible only if IPI is OK'd to reopen casino'

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With U.S. Citizenship and Immigration amending its policy on the departure requirement for CNMI-Only Transitional Workers—more commonly referred to as the "touchback rule"—some of the 130 CW employees of Imperial Pacific International CNMI LLC would not be required to leave the CNMI.

At the Commonwealth Casino Commission's board meeting last Thursday, IPI human resources director Redie Dela Cruz said that USCIS' modification of its policy changed everything for CWs who initially fell under the touchback rule. Dela Cruz said they are planning to meet with their CW population as a whole to update them on this latest change in the rule and see how they can help them. Dela Cruz said she does not have the number in front of her as to how many people will be affected by the touchback rule.

In response to stakeholder feedback and disruptions by the COVID-19 pandemic, USCIS recently announced that it is modifying its policy on implementing the requirement that CW workers leave the CNMI for at least 30 days after two renewals of their CW-1 visa classification.

USCIS also reiterated that CW-1 long-term workers, as defined in the interim final rule, are exempted from the departure requirement.

In response to CCC chair Edward C. Deleon Guerrero's question at the meeting whether or not IPI will save some money due to the changed policy, Dela Cruz said it would depend on "which side of the coin you look at." She said it is about purchasing airline tickets for the CW workers and paying three-fourth of their remaining pay as guaranteed in their contract versus IPI needing to pay for the CW application fees for everyone and their housing-related expenses.

IPI senior vice president of public affairs Tao Xing also said that the changed USCIS policy is helpful to IPI in terms of short-term savings but it really depends on whether they are going to be allowed to reopen the casino because, given all these CW employees on the island, IPI will still have to pay three-fourths of their wages that is guaranteed in their contracts. He said if they extend work contracts of their CWs, they won't have to pay the guaranteed three-fourths.

"So that's what we're looking at. If we open the casino early, then you know there will probably be some savings for it. If we continue to keep

See SAVINGS on Page 4

Our Income Guidelines Have Changed

WIC CNMI

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) CNMI WIC Program (WIC) has new income eligibility guidelines. WIC has continued its efforts to ensure food access, breastfeeding support and reassurance for young families during the pandemic. WIC is available to the CNMI's pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants and children under the age of five who are at nutritional risk and who are at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines below. A pregnant woman is considered two family members.

WIC Income Eligibility Table By Family Size Effective June 22, 2020

Family Members in Household	Yearly Household Income	Monthly Household Income	Twice-Monthly Household Income	Bi-Weekly Household Income	Weekly Household Income
1	$23,606	$1,968	$984	$908	$454
2	31,894	2,658	1,329	1,227	614
3	40,182	3,349	1,675	1,546	773
4	48,470	4,040	2,020	1,865	933
5	56,758	4,730	2,365	2,183	1,092
6	65,046	5,421	2,711	2,502	1,251
7	73,334	6,112	3,056	2,821	1,411
8	81,622	6,802	3,401	3,140	1,570
Each Add'l Member Add	+$8,288	+$691	+$346	+$319	+$160

Note: All WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines are based on GROSS Income, meaning before taxes or other deductions

An individual or certain family members who participate in other benefits programs, such as the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) or Medicaid automatically meet the income requirement.

Become a WIC Client

Call us at (670) 664-4084 to see if you qualify. In this new normal we continue to do remote services, so it is important to have a working number we can reach you at.

Essential Documents for everyone who will be enrolling into the WIC Program

- Identification for adults (Driver's License, Photo ID)
- Child's Identification (Shot Record, Birth Certificate, Crib Card)
- Proof of Income (30 days of recent paystubs, Medicaid card, NAP card)
- Proof of Address (Mail from CUC or NAP card)

For general inquiries about the WIC Program or eligibility, please call us at (670) 664-4084.

Stay informed and up to date with what is going on at WIC by visiting CNMI WIC's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cnmichcc, www.facebook.com/cnmi.wicprogram, or Instagram @cnmi.wic.

WIC is an equal opportunity provider. The program is funded by the United Stated Department of Agriculture (CFDA #10.557, federal award #7NM700NM5).

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

The Department of Corrections Outreach Program team concludes their day after positioning concrete picnic tables along Kilili Beach Park on Saipan.These picnic tables are part of many to be distributed around the island as part of the community enhancement project partnership between the Department of Corrections Outreach Program, the CNMI Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse, and the Office of the Governor. The team has also assisted with the restoration of the railings located at the Forbidden Island Lookout and will continue to assist with various community and site renovation and repair projects across the island. Pictured with the Outreach Program team are Saipan Mayor's Office safety officer Ray Dela Cruz; Department of Corrections officers Ray Anthony Camacho, Jeff Quitugua, and Frederick Billy; CNMI Indigenous Affairs Office executive director Roman Tudela Jr.; CNMI Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse administrator Epiphanio E. Cabrera, Jr.; and Saipan Mayor's Office's Jeff Cabrera.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRESSMAN
GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Serving the People of the Northern Mariana Islands
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR
MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMY
CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS
Opportunities to learn and serve at the U.S. Service Academy include a fully funded education and a commission as a military officer upon graduation.
Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan may nominate constituents to the
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
U.S. Military Academy
U.S. Air Force Academy
U.S. Naval Academy
Eligibility: U.S. citizen, unmarried with no dependents, age 17-23, high school senior or graduate, strong academic record, and ability to pass a physical fitness test.
To access the nomination application or for more information, visit sablan.house.gov or call 670-323-2647/8 on Saipan, 433-2647 on Tinian, or 532-2647 on Rota.
This mailing was prepared, published, and mailed at taxpayer expense.

Emergency power outage today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a scheduled emergency power interruption today, Sept. 1, 2020, from 9am to 1pm for a portion of As Lito.

As CUC continues its ongoing system maintenance, there will be an emergency power interruption to de-energize utility lines such that CUC linemen are able to safely replace a cracked and leaning primary power pole on Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road near Hollywood Video in As Lito.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

- Outage type: Sectionalized outage on the Kiya 2 Circuit
- Project location: Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road in As Lito
- Power service area(s) affected:
- 9am to 9:20am: momentary outage for areas between the Koblerville Mobil Gas Station to Guangdong Hardware in As Lito
- 9am to 1pm: outage for areas between Guangdong Hardware to Green Consume Store in As Lito
- Water well(s) affected: None
- Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None

For more information, contact the CUC hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Two face charges for allegedly taking sea turtle

Two men are currently facing charges in the U.S District Court for illegally trying to take a green sea turtle, which is considered an endangered species.

Russel Rekemel Solomon and Jose Machutaro Ichiro Sablan are facing the charge of conspiracy to unlawfully take an endangered species when they allegedly dragged the green sea turtle by a rope tied around its shell across Tank Beach in Kagman last June 7, 2020. Included in the charge is a notice of forfeiture to the U.S. government of any material used for taking or selling of the turtle.

On Aug. 21, 2020, Solomon and Sablan appeared before District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona and pleaded not guilty. The jury trial will take place on Oct. 27, 2020 at 10am.

Since the U.S. government did not request for the detention of the two, Manglona ordered Solomon and Sablan to be released on their own personal recognizance with certain conditions.

David Banes was appointed by the court to represent Solomon, while Sablan will be represented by Steven Pixley. At the hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Garth Backe represented the federal government.

The charge against the two were previously sealed as requested by the prosecution. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

PSS to promote mental health

The Public School System anticipates 800 participants to take part in a series of training for teachers to promote mental health for students and their families.

According to PSS senior director Dr. Yvonne Pangelinan, PSS was awarded the Trauma Advised Students Advocacy grant last April through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency. The TASA grants will help aid the trauma-informed training program for teachers.

Pangelinan said that the grant was initially written in response to the ongoing recovery from Typhoon Soudelor in 2015 and Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018 and that many in the community are still going through trauma.

"There are still a lot of emotional and social and emotional things that we know we need to attend to," Pangelinan said. "We saw that in our students' data. We saw a rise in several different students' mental health issues.

She concedes, though, that they see more pressing mental health issues that they need to take care of these days. "We have five days of onboarding set up in September that will be focus on social-emotional learning and what it means to be trauma-informed," she said.

Being trauma-informed means being able to identify signs of trauma in your students, school staff and having the skills to respond.

The conference is scheduled on Sept. 1, Sept. 4, Sept. 9, Sept. 10, and Sept. 11, from 7:30am to 11:30am each day.

"Mental health, like physical health, is about building yourself up so that you are stronger and you have coping skills," Pangelinan added.

She said the training is just the beginning of many mental health conferences, including trainings that will support LGBTQ, students who have anxiety and depression, and suicide awareness. ***(Justine Nauta)***

CUC asks for CPA lots for 2 standby power plants

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. wants to obtain some real properties of the Commonwealth Ports Authority for standby power plants that it intends to build on Saipan and Rota.

At an Aug. 27 CPA committee meeting at the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting classroom, CUC executive director Gary Camacho said that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has awarded CUC a $7.3-million grant for standby power plants. One of the locations will be at Isley Field and will provide 1.5 megawatts of power to an uninterrupted water supply that will help provide water in case of a natural disaster, and will also provide emergency backup power to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

On Rota, CUC will construct a 1.5-megawatt power plant near the Rota International Airport, and will also provide emergency power to the airport and residents who are near the Sinapalo Village. This power plant will also provide emergency power in case Rota's Power Plant 1 is unable to provide electricity due to natural disasters.

Camacho said that, once completed, the new power plants won't be used regularly and only during an emergency that affects the water supply.

Yvonne Cabrera of the CUC's water division said that the proposed power plant at Isley Field will also provide water to the southernmost part of Saipan.

On Rota, Camacho said that CUC is anticipating to acquire CPA's property for either a long-term lease or permanent purchase. On Saipan, he's hoping for CPA to transfer a portion of its property at Isley Field to CUC.

CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds wants to see more details on the proposed plan but says that it's a "win-win" for the CNMI. ***(Justine Nauta)***

Torres: Man was not acting normal

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres believes the man who allegedly threatened to kill him could possibly be suffering from mental health issues and should be mentally evaluated.

In a statement last Thursday, Torres said it is necessary to support those within the community who are mentally challenged and need medical attention.

"The individual was not acting normal, and I have asked to have him evaluated by our doctors for mental health issues. If it is determined that he has mental health issues, we are obligated to take care of him as a community. It is important that we support our friends and neighbors who may have mental health issues and help them in their recovery," he said.

The individual, Pedro Ayuyu, was arrested last Wednesday in front of the Governor's Office after allegedly threatening Torres.

At about 1:20pm last Wednesday, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a disturbing the peace incident at the Legislature on Capital Hill. At the scene, police officers met with Legislature employees who said that Ayuyu had already left and was headed toward the Governor's Office. While making his way toward the Governor's Office, Ayuyu yelled profanities and kept asking where the governor was, yelling that he wanted to "fight" the governor and "kill him."

Police managed to restrain Ayuyu before he was able to make it into the Governor's Office. Ayuyu continued to resist police and refused to calm down but was eventually secured in the backseat of the patrol vehicle.

Ayuyu was charged with disturbing the peace and was brought to Kanoa Resort for clearance before being transported to the Department of Corrections to be booked and processed.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo issued a Rule 5 warrant for Ayuyu with bail set at $1,000 and Ayuyu now awaits arraignment. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Man who pretended to be a cop gets 5 years in prison

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who was arrested for impersonating a police officer has been sentenced to five years in prison.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan sentenced last week Daniel Muna Quitugua, 42, to five years in prison for impersonating a Department of Public Safety police officer and stealing $700.

Quitugua was initially charged with impersonating an officer, kidnapping, theft, and resisting arrest.

He later pleaded guilty to the impersonation and theft charges in a plea agreement.

Quitugua will serve the five-year prison sentence for the charge of impersonating an officer, which would run concurrently with the charge of theft.

Bogdan gave Quitugua credit for time served. The defendant has been in DOC custody since Nov. 26, 2019.

Under the plea agreement, Quitugua will be eligible for parole and after serving his sentence, he will be immediately placed on probation for 10 years.

Bogdan ordered Quitugua to have no contact with the victim in this case and to pay a fine of $100 as well as court and probation costs.

According to court documents, Quitugua pretended to be an officer on July 12, 2019, and took $700 from the victim. Case evidence showed that Quitugua took advantage of the victim, an immigrant, by trying to bully him with his pretend authority into giving up the $700.

Free support groups for caregivers of persons with dementia

The online support groups for family caregivers of persons with dementia hosted by the Isa Psychological Services Center at the University of Guam will continue in September. Two sessions will feature neurologist Dr. Ramel Carlos from the Neurology Clinic of Guam, who will present on the stages of dementia and the medications to help manage dementia symptoms.

The sessions are free of charge to partners, family members, and other caregivers of persons with dementia throughout Micronesia. All support groups are client-centered and confidential.

September sessions

This month's groups will be held at the following times:

- 6pm – 8pm on Wednesday, Sept. 2
- 10 a.m. – noon on Saturday, Sept. 5
- 6pm – 8pm on Wednesday, Sept. 16 (featuring Dr. Ramel Carlos)
- 3pm – 5pm on Saturday, Sept. 19 (featuring Dr. Ramel Carlos)

Carlos will be available after his presentations to answer questions from the group participants.

What to expect

The support groups provide a safe place to share the stresses and challenges, successes and rewards of caring for a loved one with dementia with others who may be going through similar experiences. They also provide a forum for caregivers to participate in presentations led by health care professionals and other community members with expertise in caring for persons with dementia.

The support groups are facilitated by Isa Psychological Services Center counselors Samantha Uncangco and Nikolas Gutierrez, who each hold bachelor's degrees in psychology; Health Services of the Pacific social worker Rhoda Orallo, who holds a master's in social work; and clinical psychologist Dr. Iain Twaddle of the Isa Psychological Services Center.

Sign up to participate

The support groups launched in August in collaboration with the UOG School of Health's Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program. They will be held year-round on the first and third Wednesdays and Saturdays of each month at 6pm on Wednesdays and 10am on Saturdays. The support groups will be conducted remotely on Zoom during the pandemic.

To sign up for a family caregiver online support group, call or email Samantha Uncangco at (671) 735-2883 or isa@triton.uog.edu or Rhoda Orallo (671) 735-3277 or nfcsp-mgr@teleguam.net. ***(PR)***

UNDER CONSTRUCTION
Cones and caution tape can be seen along the Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Pathway due to the renovation of the sidewalk and tables that were destroyed by Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018. KRIZEL TUAZON

NEWS BRIEFS

DCRM closed today, tomorrow

The Division of Coastal Resources Management will be closed today, Sept. 1, and tomorrow, Sept. 2, 2020, from 7:30am to 12:30pm for staff training. Services will resume at 12:30pm on both days. ***(PR)***

4.5 magnitude quake in Marianas

At 6:13pm on Aug. 31 2020, a report of a 4.5 magnitude earthquake occurred at Mariana Islands rRegion. Currently, no tsunami warnings or advisories are issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

IPI

From Page 1

Ralph DLG Torres, IPI chief executive officer Donald Browne also said that, by allowing poker machines and e-gaming to operate outside of the casino, the CNMI is in violation of the exclusive license that IPI holds.

"If the CNMI governing bodies are open to this plan, IPI is amenable to reasonable annual license fee and reasonable CCC management fee as soon as the plan is approved," said Browne in the letter that was also addressed to Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan), Attorney General Edward Manibusan, CNMI Lottery Commission chair Mark O. Rabauliman, and CCC acting executive director Andrew Yeom.

Browne said IPI reminds the CNMI of its "unwavering commitment" to making the CNMI a first-class destination for gaming and recreation.

The CEO wrote the letter in response to Torres' Aug. 19 letter notifying IPI of the government's intent to suspend or revoke IPI's exclusive casino license due to its failure to pay the $15.5 million annual license fee. That fee, representing Year 6 of the casino license agreement, was due last Aug. 12 but IPI failed to pay by that deadline. In his letter to IPI, Torres had said that IPI is entitled to an "adequate and reasonable time to cure" the breach.

In his Aug. 26 response to Torres' letter, Browne cited the exclusion from gambling prohibition in the casino license agreement, which states that casino gaming and wagering should only occur in the casino. However, Browne said, IPI was never given the exclusivity agreed to in the CLA. He said IPI agreed to the "unusually high" annual license fee of $15 million in return for ensuring the exclusive rights provided for in the CLA.

He said poker machines, slot machines, and e-gaming machines are gambling devices that are "casino games" and the CNMI has not only allowed casino games to operate outside of the exclusive license holder, but has allowed casino gambling to proliferate, causing irreparable harm to IPI through loss of revenue.

"There is no exclusion anywhere in the CLA that allows for other parties to operate casino games," he said, adding that IPI did not expect the exclusive rights to casino gaming activity to be so easily breached.

He said not only has IPI never received an exclusive license to casino gaming on Saipan as was promised but IPI has also suffered multiple catastrophes. Only seven days after IPI first opened its doors in 2015, the CNMI was hit by the devastating Typhoon Soudelor. In the years after, Browne said, IPI overcame numerous challenges such as a severe shortage of skilled labor, an economic slowdown in China, discontinued flights from Japan, unrest in Hong Kong, unfavorable immigration policy changes, and emerging competing destinations in Asia.

In 2018, he said, Super Typhoon Yutu hit Saipan. He said IPI, along with the entire business sector, had to suspend operations temporarily while the tourism industry and the community began the recovery efforts.

In 2019, Browne said, the CNMI felt a loss of roughly 14% of Chinese arrivals which were exacerbated by unrest in Hong Kong and trade tensions between the United States and China.

Today, he said, the COVID-19 outbreak is impacting the world, the CNMI tourism industry, and the community at a speed which has already outpaced the SARS epidemic of 2003.

"Our company has struggled, our employees have struggled, and our ability to create a steady stream of income has suffered," he said.

Browne pointed out that, since the award of the casino license, IPI has created thousands of jobs and generated business opportunities for hundreds of local businesses. To date, he said, IPI has invested approximately $1 billion in the CNMI and paid over $300 million in taxes and fees to the government.

He said the $1-billion investment in the initial gaming facility to date is well over the $300 million that it originally promised.

Throughout this time, Browne said, IPI has lost over $500 million cumulatively.

He said IPI paid $14.3 million in community benefit fund. Browne said they would like to go back to the original schedule of paying the CBF after the Phase I land is secured.

He said the intent of Amendment 1 through 8 of the CLA were to allow additional time for construction. "It was never IPI's intention to pay CBF early," said Browne, adding that they'd like to rectify through proposed Amendment 9 of the CLA.

POT

From Page 1

and schools [and places with] lot of residents."

Maratita said the Legislature will look at amending the zoning law just to ensure that they expedite the permitting process. She said her committee or the chairman of the Saipan and the Northern Islands Legislative Delegation will likely introduce the amendments.

Maratita said she just received a letter that day, Wednesday, from the CNMI Cannabis Commission giving their recommendations on how to speed up the processing for permits.

In the letter to SNILD chair Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), CNMI Cannabis Commission chair Nadine C. Deleon Guerrero gave recommendations related to the recently enacted amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013, now Saipan Local Law 21-15. She pointed out incongruencies with statutory definitions, lack of conformity with the CNMI Cannabis Regulations, broad application of condition permits that will create backlogs, and that the legal language that complicates production decisions.

"We share in the interest and intent of the delegation for this bill but wish to highlight the areas in which this amended process will delay, and potentially reduce the potential successes of our newest industry," Deleon Guerrero said. "There is a phenomenal showcase of interest in the CNMI for this industry, and I believe that in working together we can turn interest into successful outcomes for our community and our government."

Presently, Deleon Guerrero said, the commission has received numerous inquiries for a cannabis license, and under the current schedule of awaiting public hearings, it may be months before an application would receive the necessary authorizations to begin their investment in this industry.

Maratita said there is also only one potential on the commercial side as there's no international airlines and due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SENATE

From Page 1

to House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) yesterday for the House of Representatives' action.

The legislation will also authorize the Commonwealth Election Commission to collect absentee ballots seven days before the general election. It will give the CEC flexibility to make changes to the election procedures if necessary to mitigate the public health risks due to the pandemic.

The CEC board recently approved a resolution certifying the names of 68 candidates, including two judges and one associate justice, for meeting the requirements of the law to be placed on the ballot for the Nov. 3 general elections. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

SAVINGS

From Page 2

the casino closed, then it's going to be a financial burden on our part," Xing said.

He disclosed that they have around 130 CW employees altogether who are going to be repatriated, with majority of them from the Philippines and some from China.

As to the question if IPI has enough HR staff, Dela Cruz said right now they have 2.5 active HR members who are assisting approximately 900 employees. The .5 refers to a part-time staff.

"At best we see about 100 employees, trying to calm their nerves and just answering questions for them. We do our very best to assist these employees. Whether or not we have enough manpower I'm not sure what would be enough. So my answer would be yes and no," the director said.

Dela Cruz also stated that IPI employees who are not from the island continue receiving housing and utilities.

CUC says FAC remains the same for September

The fuel adjustment charge of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. remains at $0.12397 per kilowatt-hour for the month of September.

Although there has been a slight decrease in the the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing from August 2020 to September 2020 as notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., the decrease did not equal or exceed a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC Electric kWh rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate. ***(PR)***

Funding OK'd for road repairs, flood control

House Speaker Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao (R-Saipan) and fellow Precinct 3 representatives expressed their full support for the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and the Department of Public Works for identifying priority projects in the precinct area.

The priority projects are:

Beach Road improvement - Placement of base course to be graded and compacted, pavement and resurfacing with inclusion of road markings from American Memorial Park to Pacific Islands Club.

Flood mitigation of Chili St. - Elevation to correct street grade paving, and drainage improvement in and around the San Jose Church in Oleai.

Attao said that, together with Reps. Jose Itibus (R-Saipan), Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan), Marco Peter (R-Saipan), and Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan), they have been working to secure funding for these priority projects.

"I truly appreciate everyone's patience as securing full funding remains a challenge. With this federal funding opportunity from the [Economic Development Administration], I am pleased we can move forward with our partnership with the NMHC and DPW teams," said Attao.

NMHC is currently working with DPW to begin the environmental assessment phase of these projects, among others. ***(PR)***

House honors CNMI Census adviser Joyce

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives presented Wednesday a resolution recognizing and commending Colleen Joyce for her "significant role and extraordinary contributions" as on-site adviser to the 2020 Census of the CNMI.

Rep. Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan), chairman of the House's Commerce and Tourism Committee who introduced the resolution, said that, as the Census adviser, Joyce worked on a team that developed procedures, manuals and training materials to support the 2020 Census of the CNMI and the other island territories.

Joyce has worked for the U.S. Census Bureau since 1999 and served as an on-site adviser to the CNMI Census operations since September 2019.

"Since the early stages of the 2020 CNMI Census, Joyce has played an intricate and critical role in its operation and has remained steadfast during the course to ensure its success," Guerrero said in reading the resolution.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Members of the House of Representatives present Colleen Joyce (wearing head flower leis called *mwar mwar*) last Wednesday with a resolution recognizing and commending her for "significant role and extraordinary contributions" as the on-site adviser to the 2020 Census of the CNMI. Also in the photo are Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman (second from Joyce's left), 2020 CNMI Census office manager Claudio K. Norita (third from right), and other Census officers and staff.

Joyce thanked Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman, the Legislature, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios, and the entire CNMI government, for giving their full support.

"This team is amazing. They jumped right in. We were rolling. They were rolling before I even got here last September," she said.

Joyce said she remembers getting on a plane to go to Rota for the first Census job fair, even they had not opened an office on Saipan yet. "So that was great. Thank you again. I feel so honored and appreciated today. But I want you all to know that appreciation goes back to you 10-fold. And you've been great on a professional level and on a personal level just made me feel so welcome here in this community," she told the Census officers and staff.

CNMI Census office manager Claudio K. Norita described Joyce as the "guiding light" for the Census office in the past year. Norita said that Joyce gave them clear direction of where they need to go, how to do it right, among others.

"So we very much appreciate her being here. We're lucky that we have her here. And she's been a good [adviser], a great [adviser] for all of us in the CNMI," Norita said.

He said they completed their mission months in advance, which is a feat considering the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

Rabauliman thanked Joyce for all the professional advice. "But I share your sentiment, you know, it goes back 10-fold to the men and women that contributed to the 2020 Census," Rabauliman said.

Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9800 Facsimile (670)236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

CARES Act Administrative Officer
Announcement # JVA20-012

GENERAL INFORMATION: This position is funded by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act and is temporary, ending in December 30, 2020.

DUTIES: The position is under the direct supervision of CARES ACT Coordinator or his/her designee and works for the Supreme Court. The employee in this class performs a wide variety of administrative duties related to the usage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economy Security ("CARES") Act. The incumbent is responsible to perform the following duties and responsibilities:

- Responsible for compiling and monitoring the list of office equipment, items, and inventory supplies purchased under the CARES ACT; orders replacement supplies, as needed;
- Create, update, input, and maintain records and databases relevant to procurement, personnel, time-keeping, accounting, and other administrative items relevant to the use of CARES ACT funds;
- Assist with the drafting of physical and digital templates, forms and documents for use in meetings, administrative procedures, procurement, human resources, accounting, time-keeping, statistics, data, and standards as it relates to the use of CARES ACT funds;
- Assist in drafting the scope of work or related procurement documents for projects under the CARES ACT;
- Assist in coordinating meetings, sending calendar invites, and communicating with Judiciary staff and other government agencies as it relates to the use of the CARES ACT funds;
- Responsible for the collection and delivery of incoming and outgoing documents as it relates to the use of CARES ACT funds;
- Maintain the logging of all incoming and outgoing documents relevant to the use of CARES ACT funds prior to distribution to appropriate staff, vendor, or agency;
- May be assigned to delivering or picking up documents relevant to the CARES ACT to and from the Judiciary from other branches of the government;
- Assists the Judiciary in conducting the physical inventory of all court assets purchased from the CARES ACT funds;
- Foster and maintain professional network with internal and external partners and maintain registry of contacts information as it relates to the use of the CARES ACT funds;
- Provide standard administrative support for designated projects under the CARES ACT as assigned by the Director of Courts or his/her designee;
- Maintain and submit performance tracking reports on CARES ACT to the Associate Justice Manglona or his/her designee; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: TThe CARES Act Administrative Officer should have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must also satisfy one of the following: (1) Have an associate's degree from a nationally accredited college or university in liberal arts, public or business administration, business management, criminal justice, or other appropriate field and two years of experience in secretarial, human resource, legal or administrative support or related work

Must have the ability to maintain and control sensitive and confidential information, maintain professional records, and uphold office policies.

Must be able to work under pressure and work in a fast-paced environment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position serves at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary is $30,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application form at Window #3 at the front of the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota during normal business hours except on austerity Friday and holidays. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted on or before September 11, 2020, 5:00 p.m. (Chamorro Standard Time) to:

NMI Judiciary
Human Resources
Guma' Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)234-4252 I Cell. (670) 783-8592 I Fax. (670) 236-9702
hr.judiciary@NMIjudiciary.com

This job announcement will remain open until 5:00 p.m. (Chamorro Standard Time) September 11, 2020 and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.nmijudiciary.com

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9800 Facsimile (670)236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

SCANNING CLERK (CARES Act)
for
Kotten Tinian
Announcement # JVA20-011

GENERAL INFORMATION: This position is funded by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act and is temporary, ending in December 30, 2020.

DUTIES: The position is under the direct supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee in this class performs a wide variety of administrative duties essential to create or enhance remote access and virtual judicial services for the purpose of mitigating the spread of COVID-19. The incumbent is responsible to perform the following duties and responsibilities:

- Review and compile all court documents for scanning;
- Scan all documents necessary to create or enhance remote access and virtual judicial services;
- Check quality of scanned documents;
- Inspect regularly quality and assuring smooth functioning of scanners;
- Compile scanned documents;
- Reconcile, confirm and/or audit physical document with digitized image of same;
- Report progress regarding scanning, including communicating concerns to technicians and maintaining coordination of movement of files;
- Computing charges and developing a list of billing, if any; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: The CARES Act Scanning Clerk should have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must also satisfy one of the following: (1) Have an associate's degree from a nationally accredited college or university in liberal arts, public or business administration, business management, criminal justice, or other appropriate field and two years of experience in secretarial, human resource, legal or administrative support or related work; OR (2) four years in legal or administrative support or related field.

Must have the ability to maintain and control sensitive and confidential information, maintain professional records, and uphold office policies.

Must be able to work under pressure and work in a fast-paced environment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge.

Salary is $20,000.00 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application form at Window #3 at the front of the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota during normal business hours except on austerity Friday and holidays. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted on or before September 11, 2020, 5:00 p.m. (Chamorro Standard Time) to:

NMI Judiciary
Human Resources
Guma' Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)234-4252 I Cell. (670) 783-8592 I Fax. (670) 236-9702
hr.judiciary@NMIjudiciary.com

This job announcement will remain open until 5:00 p.m. (Chamorro Standard Time) September 11, 2020 and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.nmijudiciary.com

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

TO BUY PPE, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, AND TEST KITS

FEMA to award $10.9M to CNMI for virus response

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has obligated $10,922,033.33 for personal protective equipment or first responders and medical workers, medical supplies, and test kits for the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Protecting the Marianas from COVID-19 required unprecedented efforts, and a top priority in our efforts includes protecting our first responders and medical workers with the proper protective equipment, making sure our hospital was prepared for mass hospitalization of patients, and test kits for surveillance at our airport and in our community to identify COVID-19 cases before they spread in our community," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in a media statement on Sunday. "FEMA projected that we would hit 8,500 cases in June if protective measures were not put in place. We are grateful for our partnership with all our federal partners for assisting us in protecting our people."

"The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. have truly kept our islands safe. CHCC CEO Esther L. Muña, Task Force [chair] Warren Villagomez, our task force member agencies, and our first responders deserve to be commended for their hard work and commitment to protecting our islands from this virus. We thank FEMA for their continued partnership," said Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios in the same statement.

The project worksheets include $10,709,762.37 for personal protective equipment and $212,270.96 for medical supplies for the completed and documented work by the CNMI.

Patrick C. Guerrero, the governor's authorized representative, said the CNMI continues to diligently plan and prepare against COVID-19. "Our efforts to secure much needed PPE and supplies to protect our front-line workers and community was challenging in so many ways, yet we pulled through. We are in a better position today and are equipped with the necessary tools to continue our battle with this deadly disease, but the planning and preparation does not stop. We are truly grateful to FEMA in approving this funding, and we look forward to their continued support," said Guerrero. ***(PR)***

Parents without childcare are entitled to paid leave

By JUSTINE NAUTA and KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTERS

Parents who cannot afford childcare are entitled to paid leave when their children are taking online classes.

Following a letter from Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) to the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor last Aug. 19, the USDOL issued an FFCRA guidance which states that parents who are eligible can take paid leave under the FFCRA on days when a child is not permitted to attend school in person and must take part in remote learning, as long as you need the leave to actually care for your child during that time and only if there is no other suitable person available.

The division stated that the school is effectively "closed" to one's child on days that he or she cannot attend in person. "You may take paid leave under the FFCRA on each of your child's remote-learning days," said WHD.

Sablan said the same thing during the awarding of certificates to Democratic Party candidates last week, when he said that he, along with Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC 12th District), wrote to the U.S Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division regarding clarification on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. "It is the law. It gives parents who have no access to childcare paid leave, depending on the size of the company," he said.

Sablan said he needed clarification because he is unsure if it is being implemented in the Northern Mariana Islands. "It's law. I don't know if it's being implemented here. I am implementing it in my congressional office but I don't know if others are implementing that," he said.

Sablan said it isn't only necessary but it is a law that a person who can't come to work because they have no childcare, or is taking care of an individual who is sick from COVID-19 will get paid leave for a period of up to 12 months.

"I don't know if people know, and unless the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division, which has an office here, start addressing this law either through public education or something, people won't know. This is law and I guess I just thought we should educate people," he said.

Sablan said this law is separate from the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act which ensures workers have access to extended, job-protected leave to care for themselves and their families amid the COVID-19 epidemic. The FFCRA is a similar law.

However, in cases where a parent has an option between having their child attend in person or participate in a remote learning program, they are deemed not eligible to take paid leave under the FFCRA because the child's school is not "closed" due to COVID-19; it is open for your child to attend.

"FFCRA leave is not available to take care of a child whose school is open for in-person attendance. If your child is home not because his or her school is closed, but because you have chosen for the child to remain home, you are not entitled to FFCRA paid leave. However, if, because of COVID-19, your child is under a quarantine order or has been advised by a health care provider to self-isolate or self-quarantine, you may be eligible to take paid leave to care for him or her," said WHD.

Saipan Unity Lions Club cleans Tanapag beach

The Saipan Unity Lions Club, together with a member of Teen Unity Leos Club, did their monthly cleanup last Sunday at the club's adopted Tanapag beach and bus stops. Together, club members collected a total of 14 bags of trash.

Led by club president Alicia Barbo and FVDG Lion Atoy Banting, a total of 19 club members were spread out in three different locations to pick up trash at the adopted beach and the surrounding areas of the club's two adopted bus stop shelters along the highway.

After the club's cleanup in Tanapag, Saipan Unity Lions Club members proceeded to prepare and paint empty drum cans for distribution to different schools on Saipan, in preparation for the upcoming school opening. The club will be distributing these drums for use as trash bins to beneficiary schools. This project has been one of the club's community service activities, made possible by the kind donation of used empty drums from community partners like Pacific Islands Club Saipan, in coordination with its general manager, Gloria Cavanaugh, and Pacific Eco Laundry. ***(PR)***

The Saipan Unity Lions Club did their monthly cleanup last Sunday at the club's adopted Tanapag beach and bus stops.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Unity Lions Club members pose with the newly painted drum cans that are intended for distribution to different schools on Saipan, in preparation for the upcoming school opening.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CNMI Census enumeration is done

The 2020 Census of the CNMI would like to announce that the Enumeration and Field Follow Up Activities are now completed. We would like to thank everyone in the CNMI for inviting us into your homes, trusting us with your information, and most of all, cooperating and being patient with us. If you have any questions or concerns, give our office a call at 682-2020. Be safe and thank you for shaping our future. ***(PR)***

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars every Thursday in September. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

- **Sept. 3 – How to Get HUBZone Certified –** All of Guam and the CNMI are HUBZones. The Guam PTAC will take you through the certification process, the required supporting documents, and follow-up requirements from SBA.
- **Sept. 10 – How to Get 8(a) Certified –** The SBA's 8(a) Program was created to help small, disadvantaged businesses compete in the federal procurement market. The Guam PTAC will help you navigate the forms and requirements of the 8a program.
- **Sept. 17 – Cybersecurity for Federal Contractors –** Cybersecurity is a national security issue. We will discuss what Federal contractors can do to make sure they are complying with DOD requirements with respect to keeping data protected. DOD's upcoming Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification will be discussed.
- **Sept. 24 – Responding to Requests for Proposals –** The Guam PTAC will walk participants through the common sections and clauses of an RFP as well as provide tips on developing a proposal in response to an RFP.

Register at http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php. ***(PR)***

4.5-magnitude temblor in Marianas

At 11:42pm on Aug. 30, 2020, a report of a 4.5-magnitude earthquake occurred 104 kilometers south southeast of San Jose, Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. ***(PR)***

4.6-magnitude quake in Marianas

At 7:49pm on Aug. 29, 2020, a report of a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred at 21.674°N 144.058°E in the Mariana Islands region. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

Kilili: Service academy nominations now open

» 6 slots available for Marianas students

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is now accepting applications for nominations to the U.S. military service academies. The deadline to apply for a congressional nomination is Dec. 11, 2020, for the school year beginning in the fall of 2021.

"The U.S. service academies offer a world-class, fully funded education, with vacancies reserved for young people in the Marianas," Sablan said. "It is a one-of-a-kind opportunity. And obtaining a congressional nomination is the first step toward attending one of these academies."

The service academies are federal institutions that offer a first-rate college education and a chance for young people to emerge as leaders in the armed forces. Service academy cadets and midshipmen receive a bachelor's degree and are commissioned as second lieutenants or ensigns upon graduation, with a commitment to serve in the armed forces for at least five years.

To be eligible for a congressional nomination and service academy appointment, an individual must be a U.S. citizen, between 17 and 23 years of age, unmarried, and have no dependents. Highly qualified applicants will be able to demonstrate a well-rounded record of academic excellence, physical fitness, leadership, and service.

Six slots are available for Marianas students for the school year starting in the fall of 2021: two at the Military Academy in West Point, New York; two at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland; one at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado; and one at the Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York. The Coast Guard Academy's admissions process is competitive nationwide and does not require a congressional nomination, although Sablan may submit letters of recommendation. Final decisions are made by the academies' admissions officials.

Sablan

The congressional office will host a virtual information session about the service academies and nomination process on Sept. 18, 2020, at 3:30pm ChST. Interested individuals can RSVP by calling the Saipan district office at (670) 323-2647. Free informational sessions are also available for high school and college groups upon request. Additionally, the congressional office can help prospective applicants connect with military academy graduates and cadets to learn more about the admissions process and academy life.

Applications for service academy nominations are available on the congressional office's website, sablan.house.gov, and completed application packets should be delivered to any of the district offices on Saipan, Tinian, or Rota by Friday, Dec. 11, 2020. For more information, contact the congressional office at (670) 323-2647, email kilili@mail.house.gov, or visit sablan.house.gov. ***(PR)***

LDTF marks 5th anniversary with $5K donations

Ten non-profit groups in the CNMI stand to benefit from the Lady Diann Torres Foundation's "$5K for 5th Year" anniversary goodwill initiative.

Through her foundation, first lady Diann Torres has pledged to donate $500 to 10 non-profit organizations that continue to make a positive difference in the community.

The 10 non-profits include the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Music of the Marianas, Center for Living Independently, Autism Society of the CNMI, Commonwealth Women's Association, Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Pride Marianas, Karidat Social Services, and FitBeat Fitness Program.

"LDTF's slogan of *Bettering Lives* is manifested not just through its in-house programs but through countless other charitable organizations that similarly depend on donations to keep programs running," said Torres. "It is in our partnership with other non-profits that our collective efforts are able to make the biggest impact on the lives of those most in need. We need to continue helping one another, especially during this pandemic."

The basis for the selection of the 10 recipients were focused on LDTF's shared or similar goals, missions, and visions.

LDTF is expected to release a comprehensive informational digital brochure within September highlighting the foundation's programs and contributions since its establishment back on Aug. 28, 2015.

With thousands in direct cash donations, relief goods distributed throughout Saipan, Rota and Tinian, the reestablishment of adaptive sports activities, the creation of a young author's language and literacy program focused on the preservation of indigenous languages of Chamorro and Refaluwasch, and countless other initiatives, on this fifth year of charitable efforts, "we look back and relive memories of what this young organization accomplished these past few years," said the club in a statement.

First lady Diann Torres presents $500 each to the CNMI Women's Association and the Center for Living Independently as a part of her foundation's "$5K for 5 Years." CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Torres and her team at LDTF are working on organizing a webinar that will include organization partners and volunteers who will participate in discussions relating to past, present and future programs and partnerships that benefit local young authors, those with disabilities and the welfare of the public during this time of pandemic crisis. The webinar will be made accessible via YouTube.

The foundation's current and ongoing programs include Project Haligi 2020: Canvas of Hope and the LDTF Language and Literacy Young Author's Program, both of which received a federal grant through the National Endowment for the Arts and Northern Marianas Humanities Council, respectively.

The Project Haligi 2020 was recently put on hold as the organization received an overwhelmingly high volume of applicants, exceeding the number of poles allotted for the stipend program.

The Language and Literacy Young Author's Program, which had five authors successfully published, is now working on its sixth book. All published books can be viewed online via https://issuu.com/ladydianntorres.

LDTF is located in Susupe at the Joeten Center Building 2. Due to limited operating hours, inquiries are encouraged over email at ladydianntorres@gmail.com. For program information and updates, LDTF are accessible on Facebook and Instagram.

The leadership of LDTF has grown over the years, with Torres as president; Geralyn Dela Cruz as vice president; Kathy Palacios as director and treasurer; Shirley Sablan as director; Claudia Flores as secretary; and Irene Torres, Bonnie Royal, Michelle Sablan, Tiana Reyes, Donovan Tudela, and Randall Pangelinan as members. ***(PR)***

MICHAEL N. EVANGELISTA, ESQ. (CNMI Bar No. F0364)
LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL NORITA EVANGELISTA, LLC
D'Torres Building, Garapan
P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 235-8060;
Fax: (670) 235-8070
Email: mnevangelista8@gmail.com

Attorney for Guardians

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP FOR JUANITA PALMAN PROPST Ward,) FCD GU CIVIL CASE NO. 19-0283) NOTICE OF HEARING ON MOTION FOR AN ORDER APPROVING TRANSFER OF WARD'S ESTATE ASSETS) Date: September 21, 2020) Time: 9:00 a.m.) Judge: Hon. Teresa Kim-Tenorio Associate Judge

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on September 21, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. or as soon after as the moving parties may be heard, at the Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, CNMI, Ivan K. Propst, Jr., and Edwin K. Propst (collectively, "Co-Guardians"), as court-approved guardians in the above-captioned case of Juanita Palman Propst ("Ward"), an incompetent person, by and through counsel, will move this Court and be heard for an Order approving the transfer of the Ward's Estate assets, to wit: real properties, specifically, leasehold interests in Lot No. H-17-7, Lot No. H-17-18, and Lot No. E.A.444-3, all located on the island of Saipan, CNMI.

Any person having any objection to the transfer of any real properties in the Ward's Estate shall file notice with the Clerk of Court on or before the hearing date and shall appear, in person or through counsel, at the hearing.

DATED this 25th day of August, 2020.

LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL NORITA EVANGELISTA, LLC

/s/ Michael N. Evangelista
Michael N. Evangelista, Esq. (Bar No. 0364)
Attorney for Guardians

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its quarterly board meeting on **Wednesday, September 02, 2020 at 8:30a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Governor's Office Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairman's Report
- 2020 NCEES Virtual Annual Meeting
- Letter from F. Guerrero

VII. Director's Report
- Quarterly Financial Report

VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
- AG Legal Opinion

XII. New Business
XIII. Applications for Board's Review
XIV. Miscellaneous Business
XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP20-OGM-103

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"TO CONDUCT FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE 2MW UTILITY SCALE GRID CONNECTED ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FOR THE ISLAND OF ROTA, A PROJECT UNDER THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO **MR. FRANKIE F. ANGEL, GRANTS SPECIALIST**, VIA E-MAIL TO frankie.angel@gov.mp **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS 04:30 P.M., SEPTEMBER 03, 2020**.

PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR **10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, SEPTEMBER 09, 2020** AT THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, CAPITOL HILL, OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT. ***PLEASE NOTE ALL PARTICIPANTS/ATTENDEES ARE REQUIRED TO USE A MASK AND EXERCISE SOCIAL DISTANCING FOR THE DURATION OF THE MEETING.***

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXX, Issue No. 173

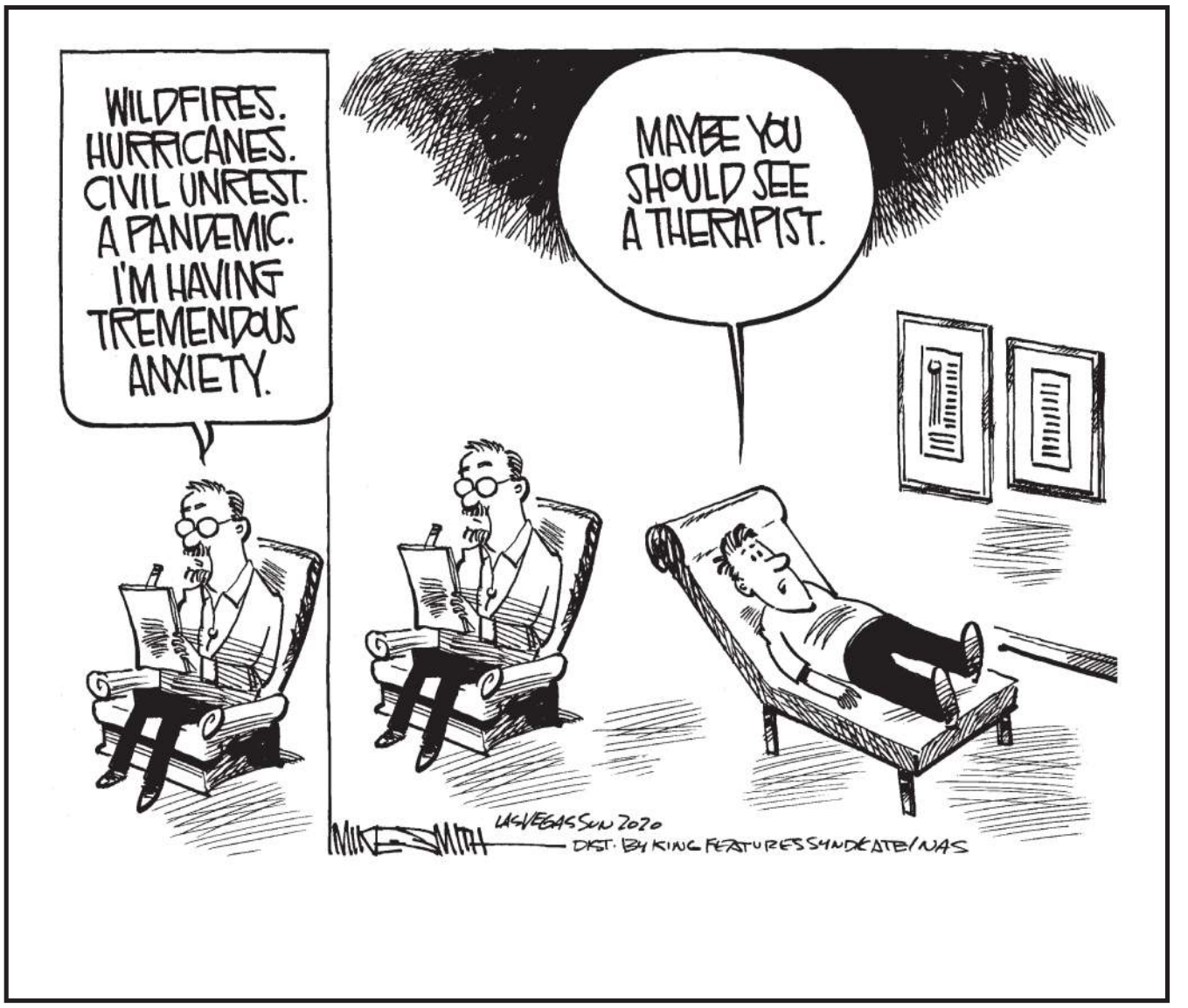
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association


WILDFIRES. HURRICANES. CIVIL UNREST. A PANDEMIC. I'M HAVING TREMENDOUS ANXIETY.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD SEE A THERAPIST.
MIKE SMITH
LAS VEGAS SUN 2020
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NAS

EDITORIAL

Kenosha writes another sad chapter in America

Another Black man is shot by police—this time in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Another night of mostly peaceful protesting devolves into violent damage to property, buildings and vehicles.

And now an Illinois man has been charged with first-degree intentional homicide after two people were killed and another was wounded in the mayhem that reportedly drew armed vigilantes to the southeastern Wisconsin city.

On one side, some protesters have turned to violence—fed up with being victimized and not convinced that peaceful protests will do any good. That's apparently attracted self-appointed, openly armed militia who say their purpose is to protect property from rioters.

Where does that leave us? If America cannot break the cycle of Black men and women in the line of fire from police while also stopping those civilians who want to take the law into their own hands, the violence will likely continue. How many more deaths, injuries and broken and burned buildings will it take?

Jacob Blake, 29, was shot in the back multiple times on Sunday as he walked away from police and leaned into his SUV, with three of his children seated inside. The shooting was captured on cellphone video and ignited protests in the U.S. three months after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Kenosha police have said little about the incident, other than that they were responding to a domestic dispute and that the investigation is now out of the local department's hands.

On Wednesday, authorities arrested a 17-year-old in Antioch, Illinois, who had been caught on cellphone video in Kenosha on Tuesday night opening fire in the middle of the street with a semi-automatic rifle.

Floyd's death has prompted what can be a productive and healing national discussion on race and justice. But the violence in Kenosha this week will only inflame raw emotions.

Despite calls to dismantle and defund police, police as peacekeepers are needed to protect the majority from the extremists among them. Peaceful protesters, who make up the vast majority of those on the streets, can't control those who take advantage of the situation to destroy property and loot buildings.

And law-abiding business and property owners can't stop the uninvited vigilantes who put out calls on social media to show up at events and protests with military firearms.

"I've had people saying, 'Why don't you deputize citizens?'?" Sheriff David Beth told The New York Times. "This is why you don't deputize citizens with guns to protect Kenosha."

That's the right answer, yet a police officer who was caught on video in Kenosha told a group of armed civilians that "we appreciate you being here," according to The Associated Press.

Vigilantism and violence only detract from the work it will take to restore peace in our nation's cities and effectively address the nation's racial and social justice issues. Neither is acceptable, and neither should be tolerated.

(c)2020 *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis)

Does a Black man's life matter in America?

By ANDREA K. MCDANIELS
The Baltimore Sun

Andrea K. McDaniels is deputy editorial page editor for The Baltimore Sun.

How much is a Black man's life worth in America?

The answer was made clear this week with yet another police shooting—not much.

Jacob Blake didn't die when he was shot seven times in the back by officers in Kenosha, Wisconsin, but that is only because of nothing short of a miracle. The 29-year-old's injuries are life-altering all the same, the worst being a severed spine that has left him partially paralyzed. His family says it will take a second miracle for him to ever walk again.

Then there are his three children—ages 3, 5 and 8—who were packed in the car as their dad slumped over into the front seat after being hit by the bullets. The traumatic event will likely taint their lives forever. Apparently the lives of Black children don't matter all that much either.

The low value of Blake's life to police was clear that day. A few days later it still didn't seem to matter much to law enforcement who stood nearby when a white teenager shot into a crowd of protesters demanding an investigation into what happened to Blake. The teen walked by officers, while carrying a gun, and raised no suspicions. Remember when 12-year-old Tamir Rice was shot for playing with a toy gun in a Cleveland park in 2014? Tell me: What does the life of a Black boy mean in this country?

Vice President Mike Pence also seemed unconcerned about another Black man gunned down by police. During a Republican National Convention speech Wednesday night in which he pushed a "law and order" agenda, Pence sounded off on protesters with no mention of why people had taken to the streets. He never once uttered Jacob Blake's name. Instead, he implored that "the violence must stop" and declared that looters and rioters "will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

Even if you believe the looting must stop, shouldn't unnecessary police-involved shootings as well? Pence's message was a clear spare-no-victims one. Law and order even at the expense of someone's life—especially if it is a Black man.

As a country, we find ourselves in the same spot we did three months ago when George Floyd died after a Minneapolis cop knelt on his neck so long he stopped breathing. We are back to the place we were when Ahmaud Arbery was gunned down by vigilantes while jogging in a Georgia neighborhood he apparently didn't belong in.

Some people are shocked that this could happen again. Black people are fed up that this was allowed to happen again. "F--K THIS MAN!!!! WE DEMAND CHANGE. SICK OF IT," tweeted NBA superstar LeBron James, expressing what so many felt. Once again protesters have hit the streets. Once again so many cry for justice that many are skeptical will come because change has been too slow to come. Where are all of the massive judicial reform efforts promised by lawmakers and politicos at the beginning of the summer? Why does it take another incident to spark that movement again?

The ray of hope is that there are so many people that do believe the life of Black men are meaningful. The TNT sports broadcaster, Kenny Smith, who walked off the air in disgust over how the shooting of Blake has been handled. The NBA and WNBA teams that stopped play in protest. Tennis star Naomi Osaka, who dropped out of the semifinals of the Western & Southern Open in New York to make a very public statement. Presidential candidate Joe Biden who said: "What I saw in that video makes me sick." The average Joe or Josephine who took to his or her Twitter account to protest. Both the high profile and the everyday person used their platforms. Without this kind of pressure and attention, the Justice Department might not have announced Thursday an investigation into the shooting.

As people convene on Washington, D.C., in person and virtually Friday for the 57th anniversary of the March on Washington, they will again demand that lawmakers create public policy to break down the vestiges of systemic racism in the criminal justice system and other areas. This is how true change will occur.

So, I ask again: What is the worth of a Black man's life in America?

Their lives do indeed matter, no matter how much some people want us to believe that they don't. We must affirm that they do.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Presidential campaign messaging war: It's ugly and going to get worse

By DAVID ZURAWIK
The Baltimore Sun

David Zurawik is The Baltimore Sun*'s media critic. Email: david.zurawik@baltsun.com; Twitter: @davidzurawik.*

If you are concerned about the way smears, lies, character assassination and disinformation have polluted the conversation of American civic life, brace yourself. It's going to get worse starting this week as Team Trump punches back on Facebook and YouTube against the digital Democratic National Convention and the ticket of former Vice President Joe Biden and Sen. Kamala Harris.

The New York Times was the first to report an advertising buy made by the president's campaign team to saturate Facebook, YouTube and other digital sites with pro-Trump, anti-Biden content. The tab could run as high as $10 million for an effort that will include taking over the banner on the YouTube homepage and forcing YouTube users to wade through pre-roll, Trump-bought content before getting to play the video they came to see. That campaign started Tuesday, the second day of the convention, and will run for 96 hours, according to the newspaper.

But you didn't have to wait until Tuesday to see what Team Trump would be saying on Facebook and YouTube. A crush of ads paid for by Donald Trump for President, Inc. appeared on Facebook over the weekend.

"Joe Biden MEANS 11 MILLION Illegal Immigrants competing for American jobs. They will all be eligible for FREE health care, Social Security and Medicare. America CANNOT afford Joe Biden," one ad begins.

Those words along with a picture of Trump appear over a large depiction of Biden and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez with the headline: "JOE BIDEN PUT A SOCIALIST IN CHARGE OF HIS ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT PLAN."

The words "A SOCIALIST" are in larger type and red ink, and there is a squiggly red arrow pointing at Ocasio-Cortez in case anyone reading doesn't get who the socialist is. There are also three triangles along the right side of her head. I have no idea what they are there for.

There are 20 versions of that ad on Facebook.

It does not matter on Facebook whether any of the statements in the ad are true. Trump for President, Inc. can say anything it wants about Biden and Ocasio-Cortez, because Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg says political advertisers are allowed to lie on his platform. That's because not allowing political advertisers to lie would be a violation of their free speech, according to Zuckerberg. I am going to leave that right there before my head explodes.

These are early versions of the main narrative Trump's campaign is trying to seed the media with in the wake of Biden picking Harris as his running mate. It goes something like this: Biden has been taken over by the radical left extremist wing of the Democratic Party, and a vote for him is a vote for socialism. Police will be defunded, anarchy will erupt throughout the land and immigrants will get your jobs and government benefits.

The multimillion-dollar campaign in social media this week is an attempt both to distract from the Democrats' online convention and to contextualize everything said about Biden and Harris during the digital event in negative terms. Team Trump is spending $10 million on digital media to get as many people as possible to see the Democratic ticket through its lens.

Trump himself might be doing some distracting and contextualizing, if reports are accurate that he is going to speak in Pennsylvania Thursday near Biden's hometown of Scranton just hours before the former vice president accepts his party's nomination at the convention.

Trump has already helped establish a media echo chamber.

Hours after Harris was announced last Tuesday as the vice presidential pick, Trump was on Fox News telling Sean Hannity, "A lot of people think it's a dangerous choice."

Harris will help "destroy the country" if Democrats win the White House in November, the president alleged.

"This pick solidifies what's the most extreme, radical, far-left, out-of-the-mainstream ticket of any major political party in American history," Hannity agreed.

Democrats are not as out of it in social media as they were in 2016. They have media weapons as well. The Lincoln Project, a collection of current and former Republicans out to defeat Trump, is proving it can punch every bit as hard as the president. And Facebook is filled with a plethora of anti-Trump ads attacking his record in office.

This week will tell us a lot about where the media campaigns are headed this fall. But we already know it's going to be an expensive and, to use one of Trump's favorite words, nasty place.

The QAnon rot in the GOP

By RICH LOWRY
King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

QAnon is getting its first congresswoman.

Marjorie Taylor Greene won a runoff in a Republican primary, all but assuring her victory in November in a heavily GOP district.

She is thus set to become the highest officeholder in the land who takes seriously the lunatic theories of QAnon, the anonymous internet poster who says, among other ludicrous and poisonous things, that there's a global network of pedophiles about to be exposed and undone by President Donald Trump.

Greene's ascension is the latest indication of the creeping influence of Q, who has fashioned a kind of free-floating John Birch Society for the digital age. The author's adherents or fellow travelers are adept at spreading memes on social media, hold signs or wear paraphernalia touting Q at Trump rallies, and now are notching some victories in GOP primaries.

Jo Rae Perkins, a no-hoper who won the Republican Senate primary in Oregon, has associated herself with Q and expressed disappointment when her sellout campaign team tried to hide her enthusiasm for the conspiracy theory. Lauren Boebert, the upset winner of a primary for a Republican House seat in Colorado, said of Q in a radio interview, "If this is real, then it could be really great for our country."

The rise of Q shouldn't be exaggerated. Surely, most Republicans aren't even aware of this dreck, and the Q caucus in the next Congress might number one or two. Almost every political movement has a fringe that marinates in paranoia and is prepared to believe—or invent—the worst about the other side.

Yet, the spread of QAnon shows that the Trump-era GOP has weakened antibodies against kookery. Trump himself sets the tone. He's an indiscriminate tweeter of disreputable Twitter accounts, and he's floated all sorts of ridiculous conspiracy theories over the years—just ask Ted Cruz's father, or Joe Scarborough. Trump fulsomely praised Greene upon her primary victory as a Republican rising star.

In 2017, Greene posted a long, hilariously earnest and completely bonkers explication of Q posts to YouTube. She had read them closely and spent time trying to figure out their import. The time and energy you'd hope an eventual congressional candidate would devote to understanding the federal budget or, say, how to reform military procurement, she'd poured into Q, and was clearly invigorated and alarmed by it.

Q has a special draw for a segment of Trump supporters. The author's lurid inventions involve people who are already villains of the populist right, the likes of George Soros and John Podesta. Q promotes a radical distrust of traditional sources of information and makes Trump's stumbles into master chess moves, both of which are pleasing to Trump superfans.

All of this is an explanation, not an excuse. Q is deeply corrosive of the qualities necessary to live in and govern a republic. It invites its adherents to suspend reason—how else to credit all the prophecies that haven't come to pass?—and believe that a swath of the American establishment isn't just wrongheaded or incompetent, but engaged in monstrous secret crimes.

Marjorie Taylor Greene has already been criticized by Republican congressional leaders for her incendiary rantings about Muslims. She deserves, too, to be shunned her for attraction to Q, even if the president of the United States is unbothered by it.

PERISCOPE

Stay tuned for the final installment of

Don Farrell's

brief history of the end of the Pacific war, Sept. 2, 1945, which will be published tomorrow, Sept 2, 2020.

English affords many opportunities for you to make a fool of yourself

By JOHN MCINTYRE
The Baltimore Sun

The Associated Press did this to me this morning with my first swallow of coffee: President Donald Trump's former chief strategist Steve Bannon pleaded not guilty to charges he ripped off donors to an online funding scheme to build a southern border wall in federal court Thursday.

You'd think that building a border wall in federal court would be unlikely to attract even the most gullible of marks.

And this on the same day:

Delta has banned the Navy SEAL who killed Osama Bin Laden for refusing to wear a mask.

Death for refusing to wear a mask strikes one as an outré punishment.

For good measure, one from my archive of defective sentences:

The thing that first caught my eye was a large silver cup that Charles had won for skating on the mantelpiece.

Never having skated on a mantelpiece myself, I can only image the prowess involved.

All right, that English depends so much on word order has treacherous consequences, particularly with prepositional phrases, which, functioning like adjectives or adverbs, tend to be drawn to the closest noun or verb. The potential for ambiguity, or just silliness, is vast.

Take a little care about where you place your prepositional phrases.

That AP sentence, rendered in standard English rather than journalese would still be a little clunky, but not ridiculous: Steve Bannon, President Donald Trump's former chief strategist, pleaded not guilty Thursday in federal court to charges that he ripped off donors to an online funding scheme to build a southern border wall.

For the Delta headline: For his refusal to wear a mask, Delta has banned the Navy SEAL who killed Osama bin Laden.

And for sure-footed Charles:

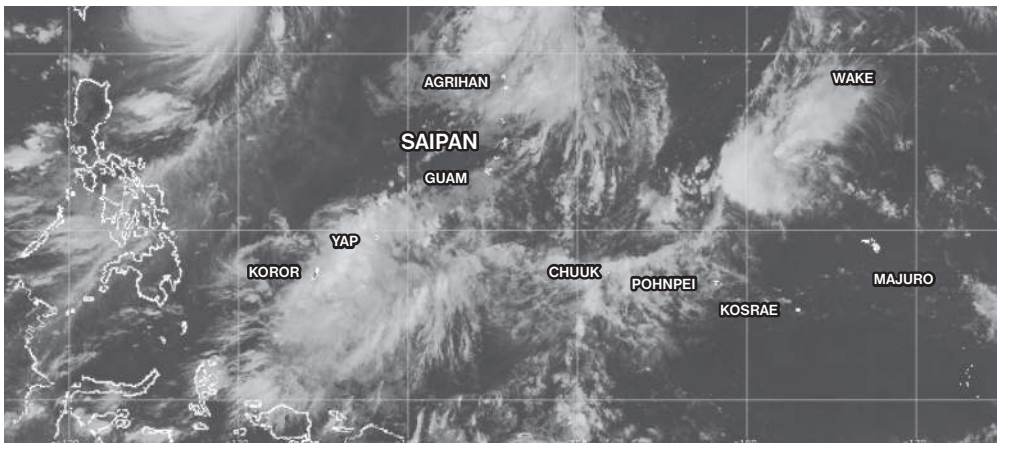
The first thing on the mantelpiece that caught my eye was a large silver cup Charles had won for skating.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms for Guam, isolated showers and thunderstorms for the Northern Marianas.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
87° 77°	88° 78°	88° 78°	88° 78°	86° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:37 AM, MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Radar and satellite show isolated showers within the Marianas waters. The winds of change are blowing though, as they also indicate scattered showers just east of the marine zones moving west. The buoys reveal combined seas of 4 to 6 feet with occasional 7 foot readings. These are composed of a 2 foot east swell with a little energy from the east-southeast and a 4 to 6 foot west swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:29 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:26 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:59 AM	6:03 PM
Wednesday	-	5:50 AM	6:43 PM
Thursday	-	6:40 AM	7:20 PM
Friday	-	7:27 AM	7:56 PM
Saturday	-	8:14 AM	8:31 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 52°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Mostly Sunny	68° / 50°
Los Angeles	Sunny	98° / 75°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	63° / 48°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	87° / 81°
New York	Partly Cloudy	84° / 59°
Osaka	Sunny	84° / 70°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 54°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	81° / 68°
Rome	Sunny	91° / 72°
Salem	Thunderstorms	88° / 71°
San Francisco	Sunny	74° / 60°
Seoul	Sunny	82° / 61°
Tokyo	Sunny	82° / 64°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	86° / 63°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:24 AM	LOW TIDE	1.09
6:25 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.88
1:30 PM	LOW TIDE	0.01
8:12 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.89

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Business

KRIZEL TUASON
Diners wait for their orders at the teppanyaki stations.

KRIZEL TUASON
Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan F&B director Das Krishnan, second from left, has reopened World Café last Aug. 21 with an altered buffet style.

World Cafe
reopens with new buffet style

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan has reopened World Café, offering diners the same buffet goodness with a slight alteration on how the food comes to them.

F&B director Das Krishnan said the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the food industry to evolve and the same has happened to buffets on island.

Now, instead of diners helping themselves to the smorgasbord, they allow waitstaff to serve it to them by merely pointing at the food displayed in four stations around World Café.

"The new concept is not much of a change but this time we are managing the buffet style. [It's now] managed by the service staff and the crew. This is a bit extra kind of service, so that customers will not touch any of the food. Most staff are working all around," said Krishnan.

Under the new setup, the buffet is divided into four stations—appetizer, main course, action station, and dessert and salad.

Krishnan said World Café's reopening had a trial run starting last Aug. 21 and officially reopened last Thursday, Aug. 28.

"I had a dry run last week Thursday to Sunday, and last Thursday was my official opening. It was quite successful because there was no advertisement. However, we already had about 80 people come in for Sunday brunch."

Krishnan said World Café also instituted safeguards to help stop the spread of the coronavirus, including temperature checks and hand sanitizers at the door, directional and social distancing makers around the restaurant, and both customers and staff are required to wear facemasks, save for when the former is eating.

"I have to understand a customer's point of view. First thing is safety. This is very important, social distancing and still convenient for them to serve themselves and seated comfortably. I want them to have a new experience after COVID-19 and also I want the residents of the CNMI to feel comfortable and safe," said Krishnan.

World Café for now is open only from Thursday to Sunday. Lunch buffet for regular days costs $19.99 per person and Sunday brunch is only $30 per person that includes a pool pass with free use of towels. Customers are able to use the pool from 1pm to 5pm.

As far as theme goes, Thursday is teppanyaki, Friday is Pacific Rim, Saturday is Tex-Mex, and Sunday is the usual Sunday brunch where World Café staff pull out all the stops.

World Café's opening seems to delight its loyal diners. "I am glad the restaurant is open again. With the new concept I am fine with it. It looks safe to me and I would come back to eat again with my family," one happy customer quipped.

World Café is open for brunch from 11am to 1:30pm, Thursday-Sunday. For reservations, call 234-6412. ***(Chevy Alipio)***

KRIZEL TUASON
Under the new setup, the World Café's buffet is divided into four stations—appetizer, main course, action station, and dessert and salad.

Postal chief DeJoy has long leveraged connections, dollars

WASHINGTON (AP)—During its search for a new postmaster general, the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors was presented with 53 candidates screened by an outside company. Not on the list: Louis DeJoy, who ultimately got the job.

Instead, in what Democrats call a breach of protocol and blatant cronyism, DeJoy's name was added as a contender by the board member leading the search, John Barger. He was acting on behalf of the board's chairman, Robert "Mike" Duncan, a former Republican National Committee chairman who knew DeJoy and his wife through work on a White House advisory group. DeJoy, Barger and Duncan were prominent donors to President Donald Trump and other Republicans.

How exactly DeJoy was hired is among the questions Congress is trying to unravel as lawmakers scrutinize a series of operational changes at the Postal Service that have resulted in widespread mail delays and fears that the agency will not be able to handle an expected surge in mail-in ballots this fall as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Democrats say they also want to learn more about the role of Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, who met with Duncan and other Republicans on the agency's board while the selection of the new postmaster general was underway.

The Trump administration denies any impropriety in the selection of DeJoy, a former supply chain CEO who is the first postmaster general in nearly two decades not to be a career postal employee. Mnuchin has said he had no involvement, though his heightened interest in the Postal Service has raised questions given Trump's focus on mail-in voting.

The Associated Press reviewed hundreds of pages of records related to DeJoy, revealing a driven businessman who turned his father's trucking company into a national logistics operator, clashed with labor unions and forged political connections that eased his path into lucrative government contracting.

United says it will drop widely scorned ticket-change fees

United Airlines says it listened to customers and is dropping an unpopular $200 fee for most people who change a ticket for travel within the United States.

"When we hear from customers about where we can improve, getting rid of fees is often the top request," United CEO Scott Kirby said in a video posted Sunday.

United's move will put pressure on American Airlines and Delta Air Lines to drop their change fees, also $200 on domestic travel. Delta and American said they are waiving change fees for travel affected by the virus through the year's end. Southwest Airlines does not charge change fees, a policy which its CEO says has helped it gain more business.

United said that it eliminated change fees for people who buy a standard or premium economy ticket for U.S. travel.

United also said that it will extend a broad waiver of change fees—including for international travel—through Dec. 31. Customers who pay the lowest fares, called "basic economy," can also change tickets free because of the extended waiver announced Sunday.

And starting in January, it will let customers fly standby for free on other flights the same day as their booked flight.

The moves come as United and other airlines try desperately to lure people back to flying despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. U.S. air travel has recovered modestly since April, but passenger traffic remains down about 70% from a year ago.

The four largest U.S. airlines lost a combined $10 billion from April through June. Airlines shared $25 billion in federal payroll aid under pandemic relief legislation and are lobbying for $25 billion more.

United has warned 36,000 employees that they could be furloughed in October. It received $5 billion in taxpayer money to keep workers on the payroll through September.

Consumer groups have long complained about the array of fees that airlines impose for things that were once part of the fare. Change fees draw particular scorn because, critics say, they far exceed airlines' costs of changing or canceling tickets with a few keystrokes.

Fees on checked bags and ticket changes gained widespread use during an industry downturn in 2008. Since then, airlines have added fees on seats with more legroom, priority boarding and other amenities.

They contributed to a highly profitable run that lasted for a decade, broken only by the pandemic. Now airlines are slashing flights and shrinking work forces to cope with the travel slump.

The United CEO acknowledged that airlines facing tough times have often "made difficult decisions to survive, sometimes at the expense of customer service." Kirby said United is looking to serve customers better this time.

Since 2010, Chicago-based United has scooped up nearly $6.5 billion in change fees. Last year, it took in $625 million, third behind Delta and American, according to Transportation Department figures.

In Washington, several lawmakers have launched periodic campaigns to outlaw change fees. In 2018, the Senate approved a bill to prohibit "unreasonable" fees for changing or canceling tickets, but the measure was scuttled in negotiations with the House. ***(AP)***

Nation

In aftermath of Hurricane Laura, residents worry about help

AP

Linda Smoot, who evacuated from Hurricane Laura in a pick-up truck with eight others, reacts as they return to see their homes, in Lake Charles, La., in the aftermath of the hurricane, Sunday, Aug. 30, 2020.

LAKE CHARLES, La. (AP)—In a matter of hours last week, Hurricane Laura tore through the tire shop Layla Winbush's family started just under a year ago, reducing most of it to rubble and scattering hundreds of tires across the lot. The storm also damaged her home, which now reeks of mold.

Federal and state officials are now on the ground to help residents with home repairs and hotel stays. But Winbush said she feels alone, particularly after seeing a video of President Donald Trump, who visited the area Saturday, joking with Gulf Coast officials that they could sell copies of his signature for $10,000.

"We can't depend on the president. We can't depend on nobody," she said. "We'll just take what we have and get it done."

As evacuated Lake Charles residents began returning home, many worried that they wouldn't have enough support from the both the federal and state governments as they face a rebuilding process certain to take several months, if not longer.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards on Sunday warned that residents were in for a long recovery.

"We're going to be working really, really hard on the power outages, on the water systems, on the housing," he said at a news conference. "But none of this is going to be easy. It's not going to happen as quickly as most people would like for sure."

Crews were starting to take chain saws to fallen trees and patch roofs, but most homes in Lake Charles wrecked by the storm were still untouched. The Category 4 hurricane, which made landfall Thursday just south of Lake Charles near Cameron, Louisiana, before abating nearly 12 hours later, packed 150-mph (240-kph) winds and a storm surge that officials said was as high as 15 feet (4.5 meters) in some areas.

So far 18 deaths in Texas and Louisiana have been attributed to the storm; more than half of those people were killed by carbon monoxide poisoning from the unsafe operation of generators.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency sent hundreds of workers to the region to help with search and rescue and other efforts. As of Sunday, more than 52,500 people had applied for FEMA assistance, and the agency had conducted over 200 home inspections and distributed more than $650,000 in assistance, said Tony Robinson, FEMA's administrator for the region. The Louisiana National Guard, meanwhile, had handed out hundreds of thousands of bottles of water and meals and about 14,000 tarps, the governor said.

But the needs were substantial. In hard-hit Calcasieu Parish, some waited hours in line for tarps, water and other supplies at distribution sites, said parish spokesperson Tom Hoefer. The entire parish had been without power, and in many areas, including the parish seat of Lake Charles that's home to more than 78,000 people, water had not been flowing from taps, he said. Several residents Sunday said the water supply was still intermittent.

Crews will have to rebuild hundreds of transmission towers along with resetting downed power poles and lines, clearing debris and assessing damage, said Scott Aaronson, vice president of security and preparedness for the Edison Electric Institute, the association of investor-owned electric companies in the U.S. The association said roughly 409,000 customers were still without power late Sunday as a result of the storm.

Many people in Lake Charles were still staying outside town, but James Townley said he would remain in his home, as he did during the storm.

The front of his trailer had been blown away, leaving a single toilet exposed to the elements.

'Fanning the flames': Dems accuse Trump of stoking violence

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrats on Sunday accused President Donald Trump of trying to inflame racial tensions and incite violence to benefit his campaign as he praised supporters who clashed with protesters in Portland, Oregon, where one man died overnight, and announced he will travel to Kenosha, Wisconsin, amid anger over the shooting of another Black man by police.

Trump unleashed a flurry of tweets and retweets the day after a man identified as a supporter of a right-wing group was shot and killed in Portland, where a large caravan of Trump supporters and Black Lives Matter protesters clashed in the city's streets. Trump praised the caravan participants as "GREAT PATRIOTS!" and retweeted what appeared to be the dead man's name along with a message to "Rest in peace."

Trump also retweeted those who blamed the city's Democratic mayor for the death.

"The people of Portland, like all other cities & parts of our great Country, want Law & Order," Trump later tweeted. "The Radical Left Democrat Mayors, like the dummy running Portland, or the guy right now in his basement unwilling to lead or even speak out against crime, will never be able to do it!"

Trump has throughout the summer cast American cities as under siege by violence and lawlessness, despite the fact that most of the demonstrations against racial injustice have been largely peaceful. With about nine weeks until Election Day, some of his advisers see an aggressive "law and order" message as the best way for the president to turn voters against his Democratic rival, Joe Biden, and regain the support of suburban voters, particularly women, who have abandoned him. But Democrats accuse Trump of rooting for unrest and trying to stoke further violence for political gain instead of seeking to ratchet down tensions.

"He may think that war in our streets is good for his reelection chances, but that is not presidential leadership—or even basic human compassion," Biden said in a statement responding to the shooting, in which he "unequivocally" condemned violence on all side, while accusing Trump of "recklessly encouraging" it.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, a Democrat, blamed Trump for the tensions.

"Do you seriously wonder, Mr. President, why this is the first time in decades that America has seen this level of violence?" he asked at a televised news conference. "It's you who have created the hate and the division."

Trump, who appeared to be watching, responded with real-time tweets labeling Wheeler a "wacky Radical Left Do Nothing Democrat."

After a reporter told Wheeler about the tweet, the mayor shot back, "I'd appreciate that the president support us or stay the hell out of the way."

Trump has cast the upcoming election as clash between "law and order" and anarchy, and he has denounced protesters as "thugs" while sharply defending police. That theme was front-and-center at last week's Republican National Convention, which used recent protest footage to paint a foreboding and violent picture of the future if Biden denies Trump a second term.

Voting groups scramble to reach college students in pandemic

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Chase Gaines wishes he could get more young people in North Carolina to answer their front doors and take his GOP flyer.

Rick Hart longs for the days where he would wake up at 6 a.m. to prep for a day of campaigning in the streets of Atlanta to persuade his classmates to elect Democrats.

The two college students are on opposite ends of the political universe but facing the same challenge: reaching young voters when campuses are empty and students are scattered across the country.

"The pandemic really did hit us significantly," said Hart, an unpaid student volunteer at Morehouse College who was working in Georgia on behalf of Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, but is now back at his parents' home in Laurel, Maryland. "The country kind of came to a shut down and we were like, 'What do we do next?'"

Campaigns, advocacy groups and registration organizations say they're still struggling to answer that question—and looking for creative, largely digital, solutions.

The coronavirus has forced many colleges to adopt online-only classes, eliminating hopes of large in-person registration drives on campus. Outdoor festivals, sporting events and other public gatherings are canceled, cutting off more easy access to college-age voters.

Groups dedicated to rallying young voters have worries that go beyond registrations. With campuses closing, college students are especially transient, causing confusion about whether they should register at their home or school address. The shift to mail voting raises other unexpected hurdles for young voters, including a lack of familiarity with the U.S. Postal Service and even improper cursive penmanship that can lead to rejected votes.

"Younger voters are behind the eight ball to begin with, and COVID is just going to make it worse," said Daniel Smith, a professor and chair of political science at the University of Florida, who has studied mail-in balloting.

All the these worries are a bigger headache for Democrats, who are more dependent on college voters' support and, in a traditional campaign, their volunteerism. Voters under 30 made up 13 percent of the electorate in 2016, according to an analysis by Pew Research Center. This year, polls show that the age group favors Biden by a wide margin. And if they vote, they could also play an important role in Senate, House and down-ballot contests.

Asia

India's tally surges as restrictions eased

NEW DELHI (AP)—India has registered 78,761 new coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours, the worst single-day spike in the world, as the government continues to further ease pandemic restrictions nationwide.

The Health Ministry on Sunday also reported 948 deaths in the past 24 hours, taking total fatalities to 63,498.

India has now reported more than 75,000 infections for four straight days.

Sunday's surge has raised the country's total virus tally to over 3.5 million and comes at a time when India is reopening its subway networks and allowing sports and religious events in a limited manner from next month as part of efforts to revive the economy.

The crowded subway, a lifeline for millions of people in New Delhi, the capital, will be reopened in a phased manner from Sept. 7. Schools and colleges, however, will remain closed until the end of September.

India has the third-highest caseload after the United States and Brazil, and its fatalities are the fourth-highest.

Even as eight Indian states remain among the worst-hit regions and contribute nearly 73% of the total infections, the virus is now spreading fast in the vast hinterlands, with experts warning that the month of September could be the most challenging.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ South Korea reported 299 new cases of the coronavirus as officials placed limits on dining at restaurants and closed fitness centers and after-school academies in the greater capital area to slow the spread of the virus. The 17th consecutive day of triple-digit increases brought the national caseload to 19,699, including 323 deaths. Most of the new cases came from capital Seoul, nearby Gyeonggi province and Incheon, a region that had been at the center of a viral resurgence this month. Churches have emerged as a major source of infections, with many of them failing to properly enforce masks and allowing worshippers to sing and eat together. Clusters have also popped up from restaurants, schools, nursing homes and apartment buildings. For eight days starting Sunday, restaurants in the Seoul area are allowed to provide only deliveries and takeouts after 9 p.m. Franchised coffee shops like Starbucks will sell only takeout drinks and food.

■ The Australian state of Victoria recorded 114 new cases and 11 more deaths. The fatalities bring the death toll from the virus in Victoria to 524 and the Australian total to 611. It follows 94 new cases on Saturday, which was the first day since July 5 that cases had dropped to double digits. Melbourne residents will be subjected to two more weeks of restricted movement, including a nightly curfew. Restrictions across Australia's second largest city are due to expire on Sept. 13 but will be reduced gradually rather than removed completely. Health officials have indicated that recommendations for face masks could remain in place for several more months.

■ The Australian government says it will provide 2 million Australian dollars ($1.48 million) worth of personal protective equipment to the Indonesian military to assist in that country's fight against COVID-19. The Royal Australian Air Force will deliver surgical gloves, gowns, masks and thermometers as part of existing defense cooperation between the neighbors. Current figures from Indonesia's Health Ministry show 169,000 cases of COVID-19 and nearly 7,300 deaths.

Gunmen kill 9 motorcycle riders in southern Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Gunmen blocked a group of motorcycle riders then opened fire with assault rifles in a busy downtown area in the southern Philippines, killing nine people, police said Sunday, in the latest violence to roil the volatile region.

Police officials said the attack on the victims, who were mostly farmers, at noon Saturday in Kabacan town in Cotabato province may have been sparked by a local feud and was likely not an act of terrorism.

Cotabato lies in a poverty-wracked region where a decades-long Muslim separatist insurgency has eased largely due to a 2014 peace deal between the Philippines' largest Muslim rebel group and the government, although small armed groups aligned with the Islamic State group still pose a threat.

Most of the victims in Saturday's attack apparently did not know each other and were traveling on six motorcycles, some in tandems, when they were blocked by six to eight gunmen and ordered to alight. After getting off their motorcycles in the middle of the road, they were shot at least 39 times with rifles and pistols, police investigator Delir Parcon said by phone.

Eight of the victims were killed instantly and another died in a hospital, a police report said. The gunmen fled in a van. Police have interviewed witnesses and were looking for possible security camera footage that could help identify the attackers, police officials said.

"This isn't likely terrorism," Parcon said. "We're looking at the angle of a local feud, a personal grudge."

Former Muslim guerrillas who forged an autonomy deal with the government and are now overseeing a nearby Muslim autonomy region said they would help investigate the killings of the men, who were all Muslims.

"Such senseless violent acts have no place in a progressive society, especially at a time when people are in the grip of a pandemic," they said in a statement.

The proliferation of large numbers of unlicensed firearms and other weapons, weak law enforcement in many rural areas and the presence of insurgent groups and powerful clans with private armies have combined to foster violence in the heartland of the southern Philippines and outlying island provinces. The region is the homeland of minority Muslims in the largely Roman Catholic nation.

Last Monday, two militant women detonated powerful bombs in separate suicide attacks that killed 15 people, including eight soldiers and a police commando, and wounded more than 70 others in southern Jolo town in Sulu province in the worst extremist attack in the country so far this year.

President Rodrigo Duterte flew to Jolo on Sunday under heavy security to meet the blast victims and their families.

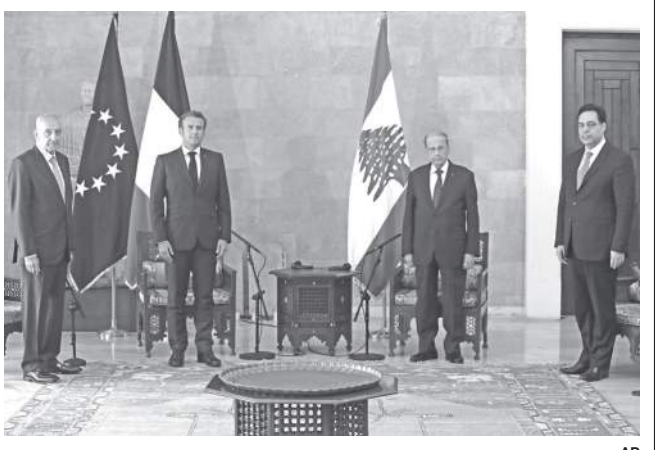
World

Lebanon leaders name favorite for PM before Macron's visit

BEIRUT (AP)—Lebanon's ambassador to Germany appeared slated to become the crisis-stricken country's next prime minister after getting the support of senior Sunni politicians on Sunday.

Mustapha Adib was named by four former prime ministers on the eve of binding consultations between the president and parliamentary blocs on their choice for the post.

The announcement came a day before French President Emmanuel Macron was due to arrive for a two day-visit, during which he is expected to press Lebanese officials to formulate a new political pact to lift the country out of its multiple crises, political stalemates, and entrenched corruption and of mismanagement.



AP

In this Aug. 6, 2020 file photo, French President Emmanuel Macron, second left, meets with Lebanese President Michel Aoun, second right, Lebanese Prime Minister Hassan Diab, right, and Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, left, at the presidential palace, in Baabda east of Beirut.

It's Macron's second visit to the former French protectorate in less than a month. He came days after the devastating Aug. 4 blast in the port of Beirut that killed 190 people, wounded 6,000 and pulverized parts of the capital.

The government resigned less than a week after the blast.

Earlier Sunday, the head of the powerful Hezbollah group Hassan Nasrallah said his Shiite organization will cooperate and facilitate the formation of a government that would be able to improve economic conditions and undertake major reforms. Hezbollah and its allies backed the outgoing government.

Adib is the only name to emerge so far as a favorite for the post of prime minister, who according to Lebanon's sectarian-based power sharing system has to be a Sunni Muslim. The candidate who gets the most support is asked to form the new Cabinet but Lebanon's divided political class has often been bogged down over who holds senior political posts.

"The target of political and national action at this stage must be to save Lebanon from what is suffering from," said Fouad Siniora, a former prime minister, reading a joint statement.

The Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah, which has a dominant role in Lebanon's politics, has come under intense criticism and public scrutiny as the country faces multiple devastating crises.

An unprecedented economic crisis had already cost the Lebanese currency more than 80% of its value, driving unemployment, poverty and inflation through the roof.

Coronavirus infections and deaths have also spiked, causing concerns and pushing authorities to reintroduce some restrictions on economic and social activities that have largely been ignored amid the slump.

Huge protest on Belarus leader's birthday demands he resign

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Tens of thousands of demonstrators rallied Sunday in the Belarusian capital of Minsk to begin the fourth week of daily protests demanding that the country's authoritarian president resign.

The protests began after an Aug. 9 presidential election that protesters say was rigged but that election officials say gave President Alexander Lukashenko a sixth term in office.

Protesters initially tried to gather at Independence Square in Minsk, but barriers and riot police blocked it off. They then streamed down one of the capital's main avenues, past hulking olive-green prisoner transport vehicles. Police detained some marchers and forced them into the transports.

Police said 125 people were arrested, but Ales Bilyatsky of the Viasna human rights organization said more than 200 were detained.

The marchers, chanting "Freedom!" and "Resign!" eventually reached the outskirts of the presidential palace, which was blocked off by shield-bearing riot police. There were no official figures on the crowd size, but some opposition sources claimed it exceeded 100,000.

The widespread protests arose after the election that officials say gave President Alexander Lukashenko a landslide 80% win over his main challenger, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, a former teacher and the wife of a popular jailed blogger.

Lukashenko, in office since 1994, has been defiant but beleaguered, unable to put down largest, most sustained wave of protests yet in this Eastern European nation of 9.5 million people. He has refused to rerun the election, which both the European Union and the United States have said was not free or fair, and also refused offers to help mediate the situation from Baltic nations.

Lukashenko says he has reached an agreement with Russian President Vladimir Putin that Russia will send in security help if asked. But Russia has appeared hesitant to get involved deeply in the Belarus unrest.

Putin and Lukashenko talked by phone on Sunday, but a Kremlin statement gave few details of the conversation, other than noting that Putin congratulated the Belarusian leader on his 66th birthday.

Tsikhanouskaya, who fled to Lithuania after the election because of concerns about her security, gave a withering acknowledgement of the birthday.

"I wish him to overcome his fears, look truth in the eye, listen to the voice of the people and go away," she told The Associated Press by telephone from the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: Toyota snubs electric vehicle trend with plug-in hybrid 2021 RAV4 Prime, but will it work?

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

Toyota dips a cautious toe into the electric-vehicle pool—again—with the capable 2021 RAV4 Prime plug-in hybrid that just went on sale. Jump in. The electrons are fine.

As brands like Audi, Cadillac, GMC, Ford and Volkswagen dive into the market for 100% electric vehicles, Toyota instead continues to refine and improve the hybrid technology that powered its massive sales surge in the early 2000s. The other giants see hybrids largely as a rest stop on the highway toward a future of 100% electric vehicles—a nice place to stretch your legs, with hybrids now receding in the rearview. Toyota is enjoying a picnic there, confident it'll catch up later.

For those of you who don't follow EV technology like it's the only sport on TV—shout-out, NBA playoffs—the world's automakers have largely split into two camps as they work to reduce petroleum consumption and greenhouse gases:

Some, led by Toyota, continue to invest heavily developing new hybrids, vehicles that have both a gasoline engine and electric motors and batteries. Plug-in hybrids, like the RAV4 Prime, get a bigger battery you can charge from an outlet to drive farther on electricity before you start burning gasoline. (Toyota has one vehicle powered by a hydrogen fuel cell, but it's an asterisk in a conversation about currently available technologies.) Other automakers have moved on to electric vehicles powered solely by batteries. Battery electric vehicles—BEVs to auto execs who can turn anything into an acronym—don't have a gasoline engine. They run purely on electricity, from a charging station or regular household current, though the latter takes 12 hours for a full charge.

(TOYOTA/TNS)

The system enhances hill-climbing performance, Toyota said. A selectable Trail model allows the vehicle to get unstuck by braking a spinning wheel and sending torque to the grounding wheel.

Plug-in hybrids—PHEVS, don't ya know?—like the RAV4 Prime are a midpoint between conventional hybrids and EVs. Their batteries are big enough to go farther on electricity alone—42 miles in the RAV4 Prime, a distance that covers many people's daily need. The gasoline engine kicks in for longer trips, or when charging from the regular power grid isn't available.

The RAV4 Prime is Toyota's second plug-in. The first, the Prius Prime, enjoyed modest success, with a correspondingly modest 25-mile battery range.

Toyota is developing BEVs, but conservatively, as is its wont.

Driving impressions

The RAV4 Prime is one of Toyota's quickest vehicles. Its 5.7-second 0-60 mph time is tops among Toyota's four-door models. That's thanks to 302 total horsepower from its gasoline engine and electric motors. That's 99 hp more than the gasoline-only RAV4. The Prime also has more torque than the gasoline model, though Toyota doesn't provide a specific figure on the grounds that it's hard to figure out because of the complex interaction between gasoline engine and electric motors.

The RAV4 is Toyota's best-selling vehicle in the U.S. by a wide margin, and the country's top selling nonpickup, so the Prime is kind of a big deal. Acceleration is strong, either in battery-only EV mode or using hybrid power when the engine and motors work together seamlessly.

The steering is responsive and the brakes feel natural and are easy to modulate as they perform the complex ballet of combining conventional brakes and the electricity producing regenerative braking that keeps the battery able to boost power and fuel economy after the all-electric range is exhausted.

The batteries and motors add about 810 pounds to the weight of a well-equipped model like the XSE Premium I tested. Luggage space behind the rear seat decreases about 4 cubic feet to make room for the batteries, but remains useful at 33.4 cubic feet with the large sun roof.

In addition to its 42-mile EV range, the RAV4 Prime gets an EPA rating of 54 mpg in combined city/highway driving using the gasoline engine. A complicated measure that aims to compare carbon emissions in all-EV mode to a traditional internal combustion engine checks in at a pretty good 133 MPGe.

A full charge will take 2.5 hours at 240v with the optional 6.6kW fast charger. A 3.3kW charger is standard.

The RAV4 Prime is comfortable and roomy, despite sacrificing a few cubic feet of cargo space to add batteries. Head and leg room are good.

The interior of my top of the line test car was trimmed in soft black materials with red accent stitching. The controls were easy to use, traditional buttons and dials and a 9-inch touch screen.

Electric vehicles are required to emit a sound to alert pedestrians to their presence. Automakers are experimenting with different tones.

Toyota settled on a whale-song-in-distress note for the RAV4 Prime.

Maybe it'll grow on you.

Available safety features

- Collision alert
- Pedestrian alert
- Front and rear parking assist with automatic braking
- Lane departure alert and assist
- Blind spot and cross traffic alert
- Automatic high beams
- Adaptive cruise control
- Blind spot and cross traffic alert

How much?

Prices for the RAV4 Prime start at $38,100 for an SE model. All Primes come with a 2.5L engine and a hybrid system that uses an electric rear axle to deliver all-wheel drive. A continuously variable transmission is standard.

The upper trim level is XSE. It starts at $41,425. I tested a loaded RAV4 Prime XSE with the weather and audio premium package. It stickered at $47,185.

There's not a lot of competition for compact plug-in hybrid, or PHEV, SUVs. The Ford Escape plug-in going on sale shortly is probably the most direct. Prices aren't available yet, but the EPA rated the Escape plug-in at 38 miles of battery range, 42 mpg city/highway on gasoline power and 100 MPGe.

The Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV scored 22 miles on battery power, 25 mpg combined and 74 MPGe. Prices start at $36,395

All prices exclude destination charges.

Features on my test vehicle

- Two-tone paint with gloss black roof
- 19-inch wheels
- 6.6 kW fast charger Adaptive cruise control
- Digital rear mirror 120v outlet in cargo area
- Kick-type power rear door.
- SofTex trimmed seats
- Bird's eye view camera
- Power front seat
- Memory for driver settings Smart key system on all doors
- Perforated heated and ventilated front seats
- Head-up display
- Adaptive headlights
- Heated steering wheel
- JBL audio Heated rear seats
- Navigation

NUTS & BOLTS

2021 Toyota RAV4 Prime at a glance

- Base price: $38,100
- RAV4 Prime XSE Premium as tested: $47,185 (excluding destination charges)
- All-wheel-drive, five-passenger plug-in hybrid SUV.
- Power: 2.5L gasoline engine, hybrid system with electrically powered rear axle
- Output: 302 hp
- Transmission: Continuously variable automatic
- EPA fuel rating: 42-mile EV range, 54 mpg combined city/highway with gasoline engine, 133 MPGe
- Wheelbase: 105.9 inches
- Length: 180.9 inches
- Width: 73 inches
- Height: 67.2 inches
- Curb weight: 4,300 pounds

Motormouth: Before costly repair, ask for this

By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Q: I have a 2013 Honda Accord Sport sedan. During my last car service it was recommended that I get a CV half shaft replacement. The repair cost $1,173.60. I am having no problems with my car. I am concerned that the dealer is trying to get me to do a repair that is not needed.

A: Before laying out any money, I would ask for proof of the need. Most often the issue is a torn rubber boot covering the CV joint and a replacement boot may be all you need. Constant velocity (CV) joints are a type of universal joint that allow the shaft to move in two (sometimes three) planes.

Q: I have a 2001 Ford Crown Victoria with 300,000 miles. It consumes oil at about one quart per 800 miles. My practice has been to add oil as needed. Since the oil never turns dark would it be OK just to change the filter and not the oil at regular intervals?

A: Are you the kind of guy who changes only half the bath water?

Q: What can I use to deter squirrels from chewing my engine's hoses and wiring? I have two Toyotas and they are destroying them. I have already had one to the dealership for service.

A: The only solution that I suggest is Honda Rodent Tape to wrap the wires. You need not visit a Honda dealer as it is available online. Other brands are becoming available, but we have not tried them. Another alternative I have not tried is sleeves or conduit that slips over the wire. A third alternative is to remove the kids' bikes and other stuff from the garage so you can park inside.

Q: I opened my hood this morning to put my trickle charger on and there was a face looking at me. Do possum's eat wires like mice do? I searched the Internet but couldn't find much information. Seeing a face scared the (heck) out of me.

A: Possums live in Australia; Opossums in North America. Both are marsupials. (Yeah, I am just being a smart pants.) Opossums are not rodents like mice and squirrels and I have not heard of them damaging stuff under the hood. If I am wrong, I am sure the teaming masses will let me know.

Q: We own a 2014 Honda Accord with 50,000 miles. Problem is starting it, which is by push button. Every now and then it will not start. We have to pump the brake several times then push the start button to start it. We have taken it the Honda dealer several times and they were unable to correct this problem. They offered to replace the starter for $700 but would not be responsible if that would not correct the problem.

A: The big clue lies in pumping the brake pedal. There is a switch in the brake system that completes the circuit to start the engine when you depress the pedal. The switch may be sticking or failing. Another issue could be a weak battery in the fob. Try touching the fob to the start/stop button and then try starting the engine.

Life & Style

MTV VIA AP
This combination photo of video grabs by MTV, issued Sunday, Aug. 30, 2020, shows Lady Gaga wearing masks during the MTV Video Music Awards.

Lady Gaga dominates at MTV VMAs, The Weeknd wins top award

NEW YORK (AP)—Lady Gaga cleaned house at the 2020 MTV Video Music Awards, while The Weeknd took home the top prize—and both pop stars sent important messages to viewers about the current state of the world: "Wear a mask" and "Justice for Jacob Blake and Breonna Taylor."

Gaga won five honors Sunday, most of them for her No. 1 hit with Ariana Grande, "Rain on Me," which the pop stars performed live for the first time.

"Wear a mask. It's a sign of respect," Gaga said during one of her several appearances onstage as she accepted awards like artist of the year, song of the year and the MTV Tricon award.

With an electronic mask, Gaga performed a medley of her songs, including "Stupid Love," "Chromatica II" and "911." She and Grande were joined by a number of background dancers all wearing masks.

The Weeknd, the first performer of the night, paid tribute to Blake and Taylor—two Black people who were shot by police officers—after winning video of the year and best R&B for "Blinding Lights."

"It's really hard for me to celebrate right now and enjoy this moment, so I'm just going to say: justice for Jacob Blake and justice for Breonna Taylor," he said.

The VMAs kicked off with another touching moment, as host Keke Palmer told viewers the show was dedicated to Chadwick Boseman, who died Friday at age 43 after privately battling colon cancer for four years.

"We dedicate tonight's show to a man whose spirit touched so many. He's a true hero, not just on-screen," Palmer said. "His impact lives forever."

The show also took moments to honor Juice WRLD and Pop Smoke, rappers who died in recent months though their current albums continue to dominate the pop charts and streaming services.

The Black Eyed Peas, who closed the two-hour-plus show with Nicky Jam and Tyga, ended their set by saying, "Black Lives Matter." And R&B star H.E.R. won the video for good award for her protest anthem about police brutality and systemic racism, "I Can't Breathe."

"I'm super proud of everybody speaking out on social injustice," H.E.R. said.

But most of the show was dedicated to fun performances—some pre-taped, some filmed in various locations in New York City, though the performance locations weren't always clear. The VMAs were originally supposed to be held at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, but plans changed because of the pandemic.

Colombian singer and best Latin winner Maluma sang from Brooklyn, while The Weeknd performed from Manhattan. Pop all-stars BTS, who won four awards including best pop and best group, performed from South Korea. They were top-notch during the pre-taped performance, which featured their signature, skilled choreography. The seven band members danced and sang in sharp suits, at some points with the backdrop of Times Square behind them.

WINNERS' LIST

Video of the year: The Weeknd, "Blinding Lights"
Artist of the year: Lady Gaga
Song of the year: Lady Gaga and Ariana Grande, "Rain on Me"
Push best new artist: Doja Cat
Best collaboration: Lady Gaga and Ariana Grande, "Rain on Me"
Best group: BTS
Best quarantine performance: CNCO, "MTV Unplugged at Home"
Best music video from home: Ariana Grande and Justin Bieber, "Stuck with U"
Best pop: BTS, "On"
Best hip-hop: Megan Thee Stallion, "Savage"
Best R&B: The Weeknd, "Blinding Lights"
Best Latin: Maluma featuring J Balvin, "Qué Pena"
Best rock: Coldplay, "Orphans"
Best alternative: Machine Gun Kelly, "Bloody Valentine"
Best K-pop: BTS, "On"
Song of summer: BLACKPINK, "How You Like That"
Video for good: H.E.R., "I Can't Breathe"
Best direction: Taylor Swift, "The Man"
Best editing: Miley Cyrus, "Mother's Daughter"
Best choreography: BTS, "On"
Best cinematography: Lady Gaga and Ariana Grande, "Rain on Me"
Best visual effects: Dua Lipa, "Physical"
Best art direction: Miley Cyrus, "Mother's Daughter"
MTV Tricon award: Lady Gaga *(AP)*

Canals, carpets and kisses: Fun moments from Venice festival

VENICE, Italy (AP)—It starts with a boat ride in, and for the lucky few, ends with a kiss on the side of the trophy.

The Venice Film Festival is an early stop for many stars and filmmakers on the path to the Academy Awards. In normal years, George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Scarlett Johansson, Lady Gaga and more actors would converge on Lido to the snap of camera shutters and cheers from fans.

This, of course, is not a normal year. The photographers will be fewer in numbers and the fans will be gone. Many top actors are staying away too, leaving the Venice festival as a smaller, more European cinema gathering.

Even that is an achievement.

Italy was among the countries hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic—it has Europe's second-highest confirmed coronavirus death toll after Britain with over 35,400 deaths. The festival, running Sept. 2-12, will serve as a celebration of its re-opening and a sign that the film world, largely on pause since March, is coming back as well.

Hound is nothing but trouble during his owner's vacations

DEAR ABBY: My daughter and son-in-law's dog, "Zeke," is a poor houseguest. We have kept him several times while they were vacationing. This last time, a long weekend, was very stressful.

Zeke is a hound dog (58 pounds) and stubborn. He jumps on furniture, jumps up to the kitchen counter and dining table trying to steal food, urinates in the house (not all the time, but often enough), doesn't want to stay outside in the backyard unless someone is out there with him and, when he is outside alone, he constantly howls. He also chases our cats.

Whenever it's muddy in our fenced backyard, he must be taken out to the front yard on a leash or he will catch a scent and run off. There are also potential sparring matches with our own dog that must be monitored, and at feeding time, they have to be separated.

Our daughter's last trip was to be for 12 days. We said we didn't want to keep him for that long, but we would continue to keep him for short stays. This has been a sore spot with her ever since. She feels Zeke is our "granddog," and we should keep him anyway. I do not know how to handle this without causing any more bad feelings. Please advise.

ABOVE AND BEYOND IN TEXAS

DEAR ABOVE AND BEYOND: Your daughter's dog is too much dog for you to handle and, in addition, poorly trained. He isn't your "grand" anything. Stand your ground and quit trying to placate your entitled daughter. She should be grateful that you're willing to take responsibility for the dog even for a short time. If that isn't enough for her, "bow-wow" out by refusing to take Zeke at all. He's her dog, and the problem should be hers, not yours.

DEAR ABBY: I am an empathetic person, and because of it, most of my friends and family members share things with me that they are going through in their lives. I feel pain with and for them, and have shed many tears with these people.

Most of the time, this is something I am happy to offer. I understand that not everyone has the same level of empathy or the skills to "be there" when people are going through a rough patch. But right now, I thought it might be good to share some things I have noticed when the roles were reversed and I found myself needing to share with others:

1. It's not a competition! Now is not the time to share your similar experience. Let the person sharing just talk and resist the urge to relate your own stories.

2. Don't try to offer solutions unless they are asked for. The majority of the time, the person just needs to say it out loud to someone, and then they are able to get their head or heart around it and figure things out.

3. Just listen. That's all any of us want. We want to feel heard and important and that we matter. Listening can provide that to the person who is in pain.

Abby, thanks for letting me be heard. Even the strongest friends sometimes need someone.

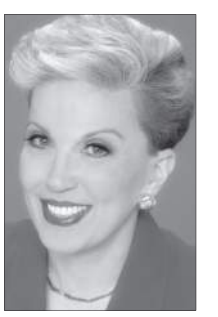
LEARNED FROM EXPERIENCE

DEAR LEARNED: AMEN! Life is about learning and growing. There is much wisdom in your letter and a practical lesson for those who sometimes put their foot in their mouths because they only want to help. Thank you for sharing.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

COME BACK HERE WITH HOBBES! PUT HIM DOWN! HOBBES, BITE HER! BITE HER!
HA HA! NYAHH! NYAHH!
SLAM
GET AWAY FROM OUR DOOR WITH THAT DRILL!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

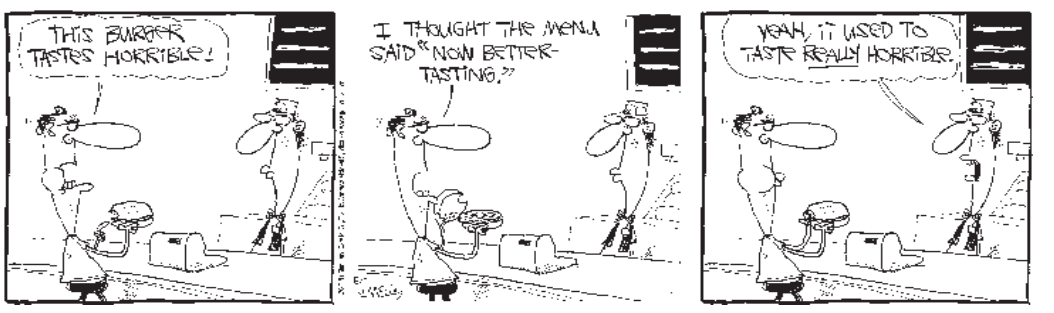
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DAD'S BACK HURTING IS MAKING HIM SURLY.
YEAH, A LITTLE.
GO EASY ON HIM. REMEMBER WHEN YOU HAD THAT SORE TOOTH?
WHEN I CRAMMED APPLESAUCE UP CLAYTON'S NOSE AND CALLED HIM A HUMAN HANGNAIL?
SEE? PAIN CAN AFFECT OUR MOODS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

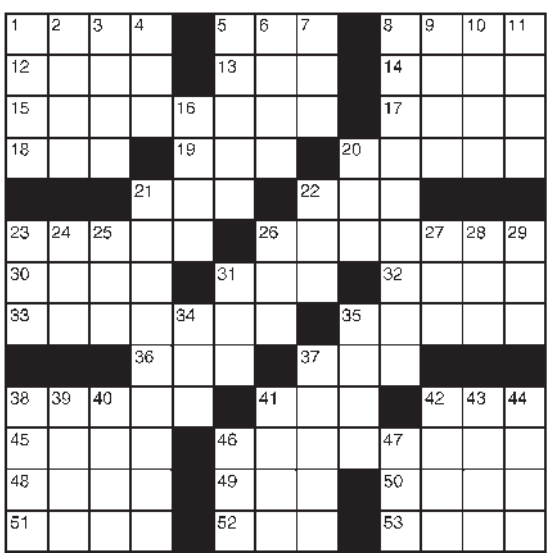
ACROSS
1 Nada
5 "Today" rival, briefly
8 Ump's call
12 Persia, today
13 Tease
14 Here (Sp.)
15 Wrestling duos
17 "Breaking Bad" actress Anna
18 Terre Haute sch.
19 Roman 16
20 Tint
21 Method
22 Ms. Farrow
23 "Va-moose!"
26 Talkative birds
30 Couturier Cassini
31 Vacuum's lack
32 Use the oven
33 Alternative to calling
35 Wrinkle-reducing injection
36 Stable diet?
37 In favor of
38 Smith of "After Earth"
41 Bit of wit
42 Clean air org.
45 "Metamorphoses" poet
46 Judicial silencer
48 Jules Verne captain
49 Hosp. section
50 "La Dolce —"
51 Actor Kinnear
52 "My word!"
53 Wild guess

DOWN
1 Tubular pasta
2 Eventful periods
3 Prego rival
4 Toronto's prov.
5 Turkey dinner sauce
6 "La Boheme" role
7 Tummy muscles
8 2009 novel by Colson Whitehead
9 Blue hue
10 Pay for
11 Aachen article
16 Physical
20 Knight's address
21 1997 Dustin Hoffman/Robert De Niro film
22 Blemish
23 Drunkard
24 Browns, on scoreboards
25 "Toy Story" dinosaur
26 Pot-bellied pet
27 Feedbag tidbit
28 Ring decision
29 Gender
31 Whatever
34 007 creator Fleming
35 U2 lead singer
37 Bach composition
38 "Fear of Flying" novelist Erica
39 Say it's so
40 Ten-cent piece
41 Marathoner's tempo
42 Redact
43 Anti-fur org.
44 Bedouin
46 Showbiz job
47 Motor homes

Solution time: 22 mins.

I	A	B			M	G	M		Q	U	A	D
E	A	R	P		P	O	I		J	N	D	O
E	R		E		S	O	N		A	I	D	S
S	P	E	N	T		F	A	R				
			N	O	R		.	E	T	S	A	M
C	R	A	Y	O	L	A		D	E	L	_	A
H	O	R	A		S	P	Y		R	O	A	R
A	S	T	R	O		B	A	N	K	E	R	S
N	A	S	C	A	R		M	I	C			
			A	R	E	A		A	T	T	I	C
W	E	N	D		C	U	B		E	A	S	Y
O	D		E		A	T	E		S	U	_	A
O	U	T	S		P	O	D			T	E	N

Yesterday's answer 9-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Zendaya, 24; Zoe Lister-Jones, 38; Gloria Estefan, 63; Lily Tomlin, 81.

Happy Birthday: Take the plunge, and put your plans in motion. Stop procrastinating, and start moving toward your dream. Once you take the first step, you'll be glad you did. You have so much to offer and even more to gain. A mix of what you have done and what you are doing now will lead to greater opportunities. Your numbers are 9, 17, 21, 26, 35, 37, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Keep your life moderate and straightforward, and pay close attention to your physical well-being. Don't take unnecessary risks or give in to someone trying to entice you to partake in something indulgent or risky. When you're uncertain, slow down and reflect. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Send a message that will inform peers, relatives or friends of a decision you've made. The support you receive will help you get what you are trying to achieve up and running. A personal change will bring you closer to someone you love. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Refrain from sharing personal information with someone who can influence your position or standing in your community. Work quietly on your own until you are happy with what you accomplish. Someone will try to make you look bad or take advantage of you. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Virtual travel and research will pay off. A creative pursuit will help you make positive changes at home that will allow you to make extra money. How you handle a partnership will determine how much help you receive. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take care of business, money matters and your reputation. Don't feel you have to make a change because someone else does. Put your energy into what makes the most sense and brings the highest return. Avoid taking a physical risk. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* A change of pace is required. Set new goals that will challenge you. A new hairstyle or fitness routine will lift your spirits and prompt you to pursue your dreams. It's time to take control and make things happen. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Sit back and take in what's going on around you. Observation will buy you time and save you money. Arguing won't help you deter others from making a mistake. Do your own thing, and refuse to get roped into someone's misfortune. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Plan something special for someone you love. Take the initiative, make a change at home that will add to your comfort and your happiness. Romance, self-improvement and a shift in your routine are featured. A creative pursuit looks promising. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't trust anyone with personal information, passwords or possessions. Concentrate on taking care of business and staying out of trouble. Too much of anything will work against you. Limit yourself to pursuing personal growth and better health. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Investments, partnerships and joint ventures will change the way you live and do things moving forward. A relationship with someone special will take a positive turn. Home improvements, a better lifestyle and romantic adventure are heading your way. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Go at your own pace. You don't have to keep up with anyone or follow someone taking a path you don't want to pursue. Concentrate on what matters to you, and don't lose sight of the personal goals you set. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Let your intuition guide you and your heart take you in a direction that promises better days ahead. Personal gains, love and romance are within reach; all you have to do is be honest with yourself and others. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are helpful, engaging and persistent. You are charismatic and spirited.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3			8	9				5
		2	5			9		
	8						6	
			1		9		5	3
9								7
7	4		3		6			
	7						2	
		5			3	8		
6				2	8			1

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	7	3	4	5	6	8	1	2
8	6	5	9	2	1	7	4	3
4	2	1	8	3	7	6	5	9
1	4	2	3	7	9	5	8	6
5	3	8	1	6	2	9	7	4
6	9	7	5	4	8	2	3	1
2	5	6	7	1	4	3	9	8
7	1	9	6	8	3	4	2	5
3	8	4	2	9	5	1	6	7

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

MEDICAL GLOVES **Solution:** 10 letters

P	P	Y	L	A	Y	E	R	S	B	R	A	N	D	Y
R	R	R	C	O	V	E	R	S	O	S	V	D	G	T
E	O	O	I	D	B	S	U	T	T	I	H	O	H	E
V	T	T	C	B	O	O	C	E	N	Y	L	E	A	F
E	E	A	U	E	C	O	R	Y	G	O	R	W	N	A
N	C	R	S	U	D	I	L	I	I	A	E	W	D	S
T	T	O	M	B	L	U	E	B	P	A	T	R	S	I
S	N	B	R	E	P	N	R	Y	R	S	A	I	K	Z
E	A	A	E	O	E	C	I	E	E	S	W	S	I	E
S	E	L	G	G	O	G	D	T	H	Y	R	T	N	L
S	L	D	E	N	T	I	S	T	R	E	D	W	O	P
A	C	A	T	S	U	I	L	T	G	I	M	O	A	R
L	R	A	T	L	R	A	G	N	S	A	L	O	B	U
G	C	B	F	E	E	U	I	H	L	E	S	E	H	P
T	O	U	C	H	X	F	N	E	T	S	T	O	C	K

© 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderwordcom 9/1

Biology, Blood, Blue, Body, Brand, Clean, Contact, Cover, Dentist, Doctor, Fingers, Fluid, Gear, Germs, Glasses, Goggles, Hands, Health, Home, Hygiene, Laboratory, Latex, Layers, Mucous, Nitrile, Nurse, Powder, Prevent, Procedure, Protect, Purple, Rubber, Safety, Sets, Size, Skin, Soap, Sterile, Stock, Tests, Therapy, Tight, Touch, Vinyl, Water, Wear, Wrist

Yesterday's Answer: Healthier

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 60** order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Clippers advance; Nuggets force Game 7

AP

Denver Nuggets' Jamal Murray (27) dives for a loose ball behind Utah Jazz's Mike Conley (10) during the second half of an NBA first round playoff game Sunday, Aug. 30, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. The Nuggets won, 119-107.

FLORIDA (AP)—The Los Angeles Clippers knocked him around and shut his teammates down, and still Luka Doncic kept coming.

Kawhi Leonard wasn't worried, because nothing rattles him in the postseason.

"This is playoff basketball and everything is not going to go your way," Leonard said. "You're going to have downs and ups. Just got to keep playing."

Now his team will keep playing into the second round.

Leonard had 33 points and 14 rebounds and the Clippers eliminated Doncic and the Dallas Mavericks with a 111-97 victory Sunday in Game 6 of the first-round series.

Doncic capped a superb first postseason with 38 points, nine rebounds and nine assists, keeping it interesting into the fourth quarter even while playing without injured teammate Kristaps Porzingis.

But with Leonard reaching the 30-point mark for his career-best fifth straight playoff game and a strong defensive effort, the Clippers simply had too many answers.

"I'm proud of our team, how we fight," Doncic said. "I think we fight until the end. The Clippers have an amazing team so it was hard, but I think we gave everything."

The No. 2 seed in the Western Conference advanced to a second-round meeting with either Denver or Utah.

Paul George and Ivica Zubac added 15 points apiece for the Clippers, who turned up their defense in this one after winning Game 5 with the best offensive performance in their postseason history, when they shot 63% and romped to a 154-111 victory.

Perhaps it was too much to ask to be that sharp again after a four-day layoff, but they didn't need to be even while playing most of the game without starting forward Marcus Morris, who was ejected for a flagrant foul against Doncic in the first quarter.

Leonard also had seven assists and five steals. The Clippers said he was the first player in at least the last 20 postseasons with 30 points, 10 rebounds, five assists and five steals in a game.

Meanwhile, the Jamal Murray-Donovan Mitchell duel will be settled in the first Game 7 in the bubble.

Murray extended his torrid run with 50 more points, leading the Denver Nuggets to a 119-107 victory over the Utah Jazz on Sunday night.

Murray had his second 50-point game of the series to equal Mitchell, who finished with 44 in this one. No player has ever had more in an entire postseason.

They will go at it one more time Tuesday night, with the winner advancing to face the Los Angeles Clippers, who finished off the Dallas Mavericks in six games on the same court a few hours earlier.

Murray and his teammates are trying to become the 12th team to rally from a 3-1 deficit to win a series and the first since 2016, when the Cleveland Cavaliers completed the only one of those comebacks that came in the NBA Finals.

"They believe in me, I believe in them and we're trying to be this 12th team to come back from down 3-1," said Murray, whose right sneaker had a picture of George Floyd and his left Breonna Taylor, two Black people killed by police this spring.

The Nuggets won the opener, but the Jazz took the next three games and were in good shape to finish it in Game 5, holding a 15-point lead in the third quarter.

Murray led the charge back in that game, finishing with 42 points, and then was a sizzling 17 of 24 in Game 6, going 9 for 12 behind the 3-point arc.

"Last game he got to the rim and we wanted to take that away. Other than trapping him, we're trying to make him hit contested shots and he's doing that," Utah coach Quin Snyder said.

Mitchell also hit nine 3-pointers and increased what was the NBA's top-scoring average in these playoffs at 37.6 points per game.

In the fourth quarter alone, Murray outscored Mitchell 21-17, helping prevent the Jazz from ever getting close enough to have a real chance of finishing the series.

Murray had a little more help, with Nikola Jokic scoring 22 points and Jerami Grant adding 18.

Mike Conley had 21 points for the Jazz, but Rudy Gobert and Jordan Clarkson were each only held to 11.

A seventh game between the third-seeded Nuggets and No. 6 Jazz seems fitting. Though Denver won all three meetings during the regular season, the total margin was just 11 points.

The Jazz came into the day topping all teams in the postseason in field goal percentage and 3-point percentage, and ranking third in scoring with 121.8 points per game. And they looked early as if they would eclipse all those numbers.

Celtics 112, Raptors 94

The Boston Celtics clearly have the formula to create problems for the Toronto Raptors.

Jayson Tatum and Marcus Smart each scored 21 points, Kemba Walker added 18 points and 10 assists and the Celtics never trailed on the way to beating the Raptors in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference semifinal series on Sunday.

The Celtics improved to 4-1 against the Raptors this season—no other team has beaten the reigning NBA champions more than twice—and both of their meetings in the NBA's restart bubble at Walt Disney World have been one-sided.

Toronto is 0-2 against Boston at Disney, losing by a combined 40 points and not leading for a single moment in those two games. The Raptors are 11-0 at Disney against everybody else.

Jaylen Brown scored 17 points and Daniel Theis finished with 13 points and 15 rebounds for Boston, which is 5-0 in this postseason—though Celtics coach Brad Stevens dismissed any notion that control of the series has been secured.

"We're not even in the ballpark of doing that yet," Stevens said. We won one game."

Kyle Lowry had 17 points for Toronto, which got 15 from Serge Ibaka, 13 from Pascal Siakam on a day where he was slowed big-time by early foul trouble and 12 from OG Anunoby. The Raptors were outscored 51-30 from 3-point range.

$834M release clause for Messi still in place

SPAIN—La Liga has sided with Barcelona in saying that any club that wants to sign Lionel Messi away from the Nou Camp this summer will have to trigger the €700 million ($834 million) release clause contained in his contract, which Spain's top soccer league said Sunday remains in place.

Messi stunned the sports world last week by telling Barcelona that he wanted to leave after 16 seasons. The 33-year-old, who has led Barca to 10 Spanish titles and four UEFA Champions League crowns en route to becoming arguably the best player of all time, contends that he can leave the club immediately on a free transfer per the terms of a clause in his deal.

The clause expired in June, after the 2019-20 season was supposed to end. But Messi's representatives say it's still valid because the campaign was extended into August following a three-month shutdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

As it stands, Messi has a season remaining on the four-year extension he inked in 2017. It seems he has no intention of honoring it. Per multiple reports Sunday, the first day of Barcelona's preseason under new coach Ronald Koeman, Messi did not show up for a scheduled COVID-19 test.

Messi is not expected to return to training before his future is decided, either, with his lawyers apparently telling him that rejoining the club in any way would hurt the argument that he's now unattached. While it remains possible that Messi and the only club he's ever known could work out their differences—Barcelona's aging roster is in need of a complete overhaul—his heart is apparently set on opening a new chapter elsewhere.

Manchester City remains the frontrunner for Messi. The perennial English Premier League contender is coached by Pep Guardiola, Messi's former boss with Barcelona, and is as desperate to capture its first Champions League title as Messi is to win his fifth. The two sides have reportedly already discussed the terms of a five-year deal that could see Messi finish his career with MLS side New York City FC, one of the Sky Blues' sister clubs. ***(NBC)***

Dodgers post NL homer mark for month at 57

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Cody Bellinger and the Los Angeles Dodgers set the National League record for home runs in a month. And they still haven't lost a series all season.

Bellinger's two-run homer gave the Dodgers 57 long balls in August after solo shots from Corey Seager and Will Smith, and LA beat the Texas Rangers 7-2 on Sunday.

The 10th home run of the season for Bellinger topped Atlanta's previous mark of 56 home runs in June 2019. The record came in the third inning of LA's final game of August. The club is off Monday.

Manager Dave Roberts didn't seem interested in an asterisk for the record because the NL is using the designated hitter for the first time in the pandemic-shortened season.

"It's still a record," Roberts said. "It's just a byproduct of swinging at good pitches. I don't know how well the ball is carrying compared to the last couple of years, but it's amazing to see the talent that we have in our lineup."

The Dodgers, who have the best record in the majors, bounced back from a series-opening loss to the fading Rangers with consecutive wins. They now have 12 series without a loss to start the season—tied for the fifth-best season-opening run since 1969.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers Mookie Betts, left, dives back to first base before a tag can be applied by Texas Rangers first baseman Ronald Guzman, right, while umpire Brian Knight, center, looks on during the third inning of a baseball game in Arlington, Texas, Sunday, Aug. 30, 2020

The 1990 Cincinnati Reds went unbeaten in 17 series before losing one. LA is among three teams next at 14, a mark the Dodgers reached in 1977 to match the 1970 Minnesota Twins. Baltimore made it a trio in 1997.

Yankees 5, Mets 2

Gary Sanchez delivered the first pinch-hit, extra-innings grand slam in Yankees history, Deivi Garcia made a strong impression in his big league debut and New York beat the cross-town Mets 5-2 to complete a doubleheader sweep.

The Yankees stormed back in the opener, erasing a five-run lead with two outs in the seventh to win 8-7 in eight innings. Aaron Hicks lined a tying, two-run homer in the seventh, and Gio Urshela hit a game-ending single off Edwin Diaz an inning later.

The Yankees won the final three games of this five-game Subway Series, snapping a seven-game skid that was their longest since 2017.

Cardinals 7, Indians 2

Adam Wainwright turned back the clock with a complete game on his 39th birthday as St. Louis beat Cleveland.

Wainwright threw a four-hitter for his 23rd career complete game and first in four years. The Cardinals snapped a four-game skid in which they scored six total runs.

White Sox 5, Royals 2, 10 innings

Prized rookie Luis Robert hit his first game-ending homer, a three-run drive in the 10th inning that lifted Chicago over Kansas City.

Dane Dunning threw five no-hit innings before being pulled from his second major league start, and the surging White Sox won for the 11th time in 13 games.

Rays 12, Marlins 7

Willy Adames hit a grand slam, helping surging Tampa Bay finish a three-game sweep.

Joey Wendle, Yoshi Tsutsugo and Kevin Kiermaier also went deep for the Rays, who have won 12 of their last 14.

Giants 4, Diamondbacks 1

Johnny Cueto pitched effectively into the seventh inning, Alex Dickerson homered and had two RBI, and San Francisco won its first road series.

Cueto was sharp in his last start before the trade deadline, allowing a run on three hits in 6 2/3 innings.

Pirates 5, Brewers 1

Josh Bell and Gregory Polanco homered off Brandon Woodruff and Pittsburgh beat Milwaukee.

Bell broke a 1-all tie in the fourth with a towering, two-run blast that hit an SUV parked well above the wall in right-center as part of a promotion.

Padres 13, Rockies 2

Eric Hosmer started San Diego's power surge with his three-run homer in the first, Chris Paddack threw six efficient innings and the Padres routed Colorado.

Hosmer's homer was one of five for the Padres, who rank second in the majors with 66 this season. Jake Cronenworth added a two-run drive in the seventh before Jurickson Profar and Trent Grisham lined solo shots in the eighth.

Cubs 10, Reds 1

Kyle Schwarber, Jason Heyward and Ian Happ became the first starting outfield to hit multiple homers in the same game, and the Cubs pounded the Reds for a split of their four-game series.

Schwarber hit the first and last of the Cubs' season-high six homers, belting a solo drive in the fourth inning against Luis Castillo (0-5) and a grand slam off Jose De Leon in the ninth.

Tigers 3, Twins 2

Jonathan Schoop hit a tie-breaking homer in the sixth inning, and the Tigers finished off a three-game sweep.

Tyler Alexander (2-1) pitched 3 2/3 scoreless innings of relief for Detroit, which handed Kenta Maeda (4-1) his first loss of the year.

Blue Jays 6, Orioles 5

Teoscar Hernandez hit a two-run single with two out in the ninth inning, lifting Toronto to its fourth straight win.

Hernandez came up with the bases loaded and grounded a single into left field. Pinch runner Santiago Espinal scored easily and Randal Grichuk slid in safely just ahead of the throw by left fielder Mason Williams.

Red Sox 9, Nationals 5

Bobby Dalbec hit a two-run homer in his major league debut, leading the Red Sox to the win.

The 25-year-old Dalbec started hours after Boston traded first baseman Mitch Moreland to San Diego. Dalbec struck out in his first at-bat before taking Javy Guerra deep over Pesky's Pole in right field in the third inning.

Mariners 2, Angels 1, 10 innings

Pinch hitter Tim Lopes drove in Kyle Lewis with the tiebreaking run in the 10th inning, sending Seattle to the victory.

Lewis homered in the seventh after Justin Dunn threw six scoreless innings for the Mariners.

Angels star Albert Pujols hit his 666th career double in the seventh inning to pass George Brett for sixth place in baseball history.

Braves 12, Phillies 10

Austin Riley homered, doubled and drove in three runs in Atlanta's 10-run second inning, Dansby Swanson also went deep and the Braves held on for a wild victory over Philadelphia.

Nick Markakis and Marcell Ozuna each added three hits and two RBI for the first-place Braves, who avoided a three-game sweep and moved three games ahead of the Phillies and Miami in the NL East.

US Open show set despite pandemic

NEW YORK (AP)—Back in April, an on-schedule U.S. Open simply did not seem possible.

The coronavirus was at its peak in New York; a building on the tournament grounds housing indoor tennis courts was converted to a field hospital.

The pandemic was locking down much of society, including sports. Wimbledon was canceled for the first time in 75 years, the French Open was postponed, and the U.S. Tennis Association said it was considering "the possibility" of changing its dates, too.

On Monday, the last day of August, the 2020 U.S. Open will, indeed, begin—as scheduled, albeit without any spectators, and with one player dropped from the field because he tested positive for COVID-19.

Benoit Paire, a Frenchman who was seeded 17th, was replaced in the draw Sunday, a striking reminder of the circumstances surrounding this attempt to ensure that the Grand Slam show goes on.

There are many other reminders, such as the plastic signs propped up around the quieter-than-usual grounds, making a mix of requests and commands.

"When you're walking to and from practice — you have to get somewhere for a certain time — it's nice. You know that there's no one around, that you're not going to get stopped," said Andy Murray, who won the first of his three Grand Slam titles at Flushing Meadows in 2012. "Yeah, it's very quiet and very relaxed."

When play begins Monday morning in Arthur Ashe Stadium—where many seats are covered by pieces of cloth with messages like "New York Tough" and "Black Lives Matter"—2016 runner-up Karolina Pliskova, the top-seeded woman, will play Anhelina Kalinina in the opening match.

That distinction was not earned by virtue of being ranked No. 1, but because the women who hold the first two WTA spots, Ash Barty and Simona Halep, chose not to participate because of the pandemic.

In all, six of the top eight women are missing, including 2019 champion Bianca Andreescu.

If the women's event seems unpredictable as can be—even with Serena Williams and her 23 Grand Slam singles trophies in the bracket—and it is hard to know just how well anyone will deal with lack of competition this year, the overwhelming favorite for the men's championship is Novak Djokovic.

He is scheduled to be in Monday's night session in Ashe against Damir Dzumhur, followed by two-time major champion Naomi Osaka—who pulled out of the Western & Southern Open final with an injured left hamstring—against Misaki Doi.

"I always love playing in New York. I think I'm not the only one who shares the opinion that this is probably the most exciting, energetic, dynamic, explosive tennis court that we have in the sport," Djokovic said. "It is strange to see empty stands."

Rafael Nadal, last year's champion, didn't want to travel, while Roger Federer ended his 2020 season after two knee operations.

Dramatic putt lifts Rahm past Johnson

AP
Jon Rahm of Spain reacts to his putt on the 18th hole, the first and only playoff hole, during the final round of the BMW Championship at Olympia Fields Country Club (North) on August 30, 2020 in Olympia Fields, IL.

OLYMPIA FIELDS, Ill. (AP)—Even with a pair of silver trophies in his possession, Jon Rahm still couldn't believe what happened Sunday in the BMW Championship. And he only saw half of it.

Rahm was on the range on the other side of the Olympia Fields clubhouse, preparing for a playoff that no one really expected, when Dustin Johnson rolled in a 45-foot birdie putt down the ridge for birdie to force a playoff.

Moments later, Rahm faced a putt even longer and more difficult on the 18th — just outside 65 feet that he had to send at nearly a 90-degree angle to the top of the ridge. From there, it was a replay of Johnson's putt as it headed down the slope, kissed off the pin and disappeared into the cup.

"I still can't believe what just happened," he said.

Neither could Johnson, going for his second straight victory. He could only laugh, at his putt and Rahm's winner.

"I played an unbelievable putt, got in the playoff and then Jon made an even more ridiculous putt on top of me," said Johnson, who at least kept his No. 1 ranking in the world and in the FedEx Cup.

The putts overshadowed a command performance by Rahm, who closed with a 66-64 weekend on an Olympia Fields course that played like the toughest test in golf. His only bogey on the weekend came on the fifth hole Saturday when he spaced out and picked up his golf ball from the green without marking it.

There was the 6-iron from 218 yards for his third shot on the par-5 15th after his tee shot went into the trees and barely came out, setting up a key birdie. There was his 30-foot birdie putt on the par-3 16th for a two-shot lead that Johnson erased with two birdies of his own, none bigger than the last one.

"That stretch of waiting for DJ, him making the putt, going in the playoff, me making the putt, then trying to stay mentally in it just in case he made the last putt, it's been a roller coaster, but so much fun," Rahm said.

He put behind him the one-shot penalty that even on Saturday he worried would come back to haunt him, and he thought about it briefly when Johnson had the long birdie putt on the 18th in regulation.

BMW Championship

All he could think about on the 18th green in the playoff was finding a way to get to the next hole, knowing he had a putt from one end of the green to the other and Johnson had a 30-footer.

And then it was over. Rahm won for the second time this year, and for the 11th time worldwide in his four years as a pro. His first win came at Torrey Pines when he made a 60-foot eagle putt and wound up winning by three.

"I think we all want the flashy finish, maybe not the stress that comes with it," Rahm said. "But I set out with myself to enjoy even the uncomfortable moments we had out there today. And man, it was fun."

The course that all week felt like a U.S. Open delivered the kind of excitement typical of the Masters.

Rahm tore through the back nine Sunday on his way to a 64, the lowest round of the week, to finish at 4-under 276.

Johnson, a 54-hole leader for his third straight tournament and coming off an 11-shot victory last week at the TPC Boston, birdied three of his opening four holes to open a three-shot lead, dropped a pair of shots around the turn and then delivered in the clutch with his 45-foot birdie putt on the last hole for a 67.

Johnson goes into the Tour Championship as the No. 1 seed, meaning he will start the chase for the $15 million prize at East Lake at 10-under par, two ahead of Rahm, who moved up seven spots to the No. 2 seed.

Joaquin Niemann, the 21-year-old from Chile, also made a spirited run with a 67 and was in the lead until a bogey on the 14th and no birdies the rest of the way. He tied for third with Hideki Matsuyama, who had a 69. Tony Finau closed with a 65 to finish three behind. They were the only five players under par at Olympia Fields.

Mackenzie Hughes had reason to celebrate, too.

Needing a par on the 18th to move into the top 30 in the FedEx Cup, he put his approach into the front bunker, splashed out to 5 feet and raised both arms when the par putt dropped.

Niemann also moved into the top 30, though he was chasing victory all day.

Adam Long and Kevin Streelman were bumped out, and Long suffered the worst of those fates. He was projected 30th in the FedEx Cup until Corey Conners three-putted from 5 feet for double bogey on the final hole. That allowed Billy Horschel to move up enough spots on the leaderboard to move to the 30th and final spot by three points over Long.

Tiger Woods missed all the action. He made double bogey on his 17th hole for a 71, making this the first time he was over par in all four rounds of a tournament since the Bridgestone Invitational in 2010.

Woods failed to reach the Tour Championship for the second straight year. He now gets two weeks off before the U.S. Open at Winged Foot, and Olympia Fields proved to be a good test for that.

MAKE

From Page 20

offer to duel Roberts a little over two weeks before the fight. The catch weight was 155 lbs.

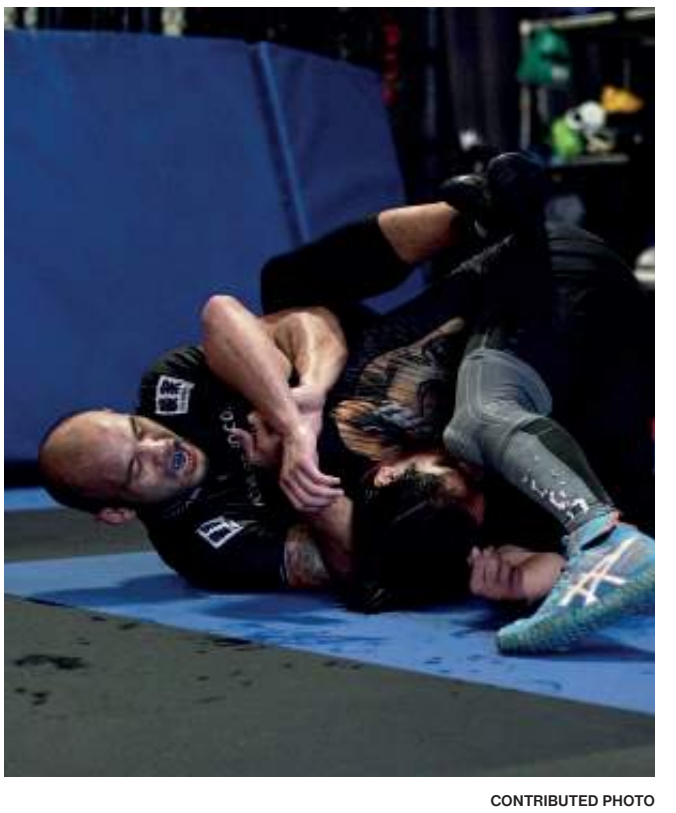
Weaver said that the poor decision is now a thing of the past as he's been training and eating well since joining the American Top Team in Florida.

"I have a nutritionist and getting the right meals. I'm getting better every day, more agile, stronger, and definitely a wiser fighter," Weaver said.

The ATT standout, meanwhile, had a take on Camacho's previous bout and said the referee's decision to stop it was premature. The fight was called off just 41 seconds in Round 1 with Camacho still up on his feet.

"He is a durable fighter, the referee should have let him stay longer. Frank is a tough guy and he's more dangerous when's he's hurt, according to my coaches. Before, when I hurt my opponents bad, I pulled out. When I face Frank, I can't do that, I will go for the finish. We will give UFC fans something to remember on fight night," Weaver said.

Frank "The Crank" Camacho, left, trains with coach Colin Oyama. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Frank "The Crank" Camacho works on his grapping skills during a training session at Team Oyama in California last week.

Clippers advance; Nuggets force Game 7

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Dodgers post NL homer mark for month at 57

PAGE 18

Make or break for Camacho, Weaver

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas pride's Frank "The Crank" Camacho and his opponent, Brok "Chata Tuska" Weaver both acknowledged their lapses in their previous bouts and vowed to show up as better and wiser fighters when they square off in UFC Fight Night in Las Vegas, Nevada next week.

Camacho and Weaver will collide on Sept. 12 (Sept. 13 on Saipan) with the former eyeing a quick rebound from his TKO loss to Justin Jaynes and the latter also looking to recover from his defeat at the hands of Roosevelt Roberts.

"That loss left a bad taste on my mouth. For about two weeks, I was sulking with the loss, thinking what could or should have been," said Camacho in the Post Fight podcast hosted by John Kyon Ko and aired last weekend.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
Brok "Chata Tuska" Weaver, left, and Frank "The Crank" Camacho, are in a must-win situation as they cross paths next week in the UFC Fight Night in Las Vegas, Nevada

Jaynes was a last-minute replacement for Camacho's original foe, Matt Frevola, as the latter was pulled out from the fight card after a teammate was tested positive for COVID-19. The Marianas warrior admitted losing focus after finding out on short notice that he had a new foe and going to the cage with no spectators around for the first time.

"It was weird. It was different, but I am glad I was able to experience that because when I get back to the cage next week, I know what to expect, I have to adapt to things I can't control. Also, not to take away anything from Jaynes, he earned that win, I was technically not defending myself intelligently in that fight. Lessons learned and now I am ready to move on and can't wait to go back in there," Camacho said.

The 31-year-old fighter is still in California, training under Team Oyama, and is thankful for getting a call from Ultimate Fighting Championship less than two months after his June 20 loss to Jaynes.

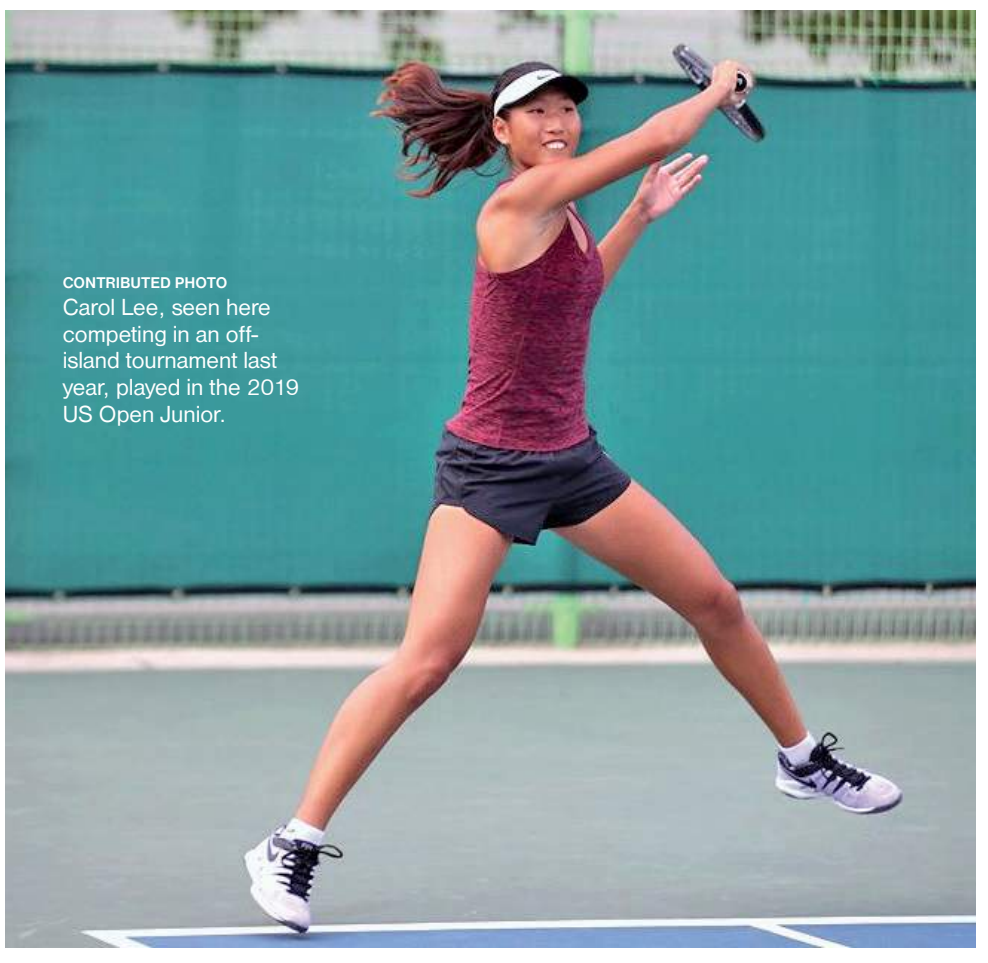
"After the loss, I am too determined to get back in there. This is the fight I need and I need to get that win by all means," said Camacho, who will have the last fight in his second contract with UFC.

Weaver is feeling the same pressure as Camacho, as the Alabama fighter dropped his second assignment with the biggest MMA promotion company in the world and is looking for validation after he won his UFC debut via disqualification.

The 28-year-old Weaver, who was also featured on the same Post Fight podcast, said he was in bad shape when he fought and lost to Roberts last May 30 in UFC on ESPN 9.

"I was dehydrated after forcing myself to a crash diet," who weighed around 170 lbs when he accepted the

See MAKE on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carol Lee, seen here competing in an off-island tournament last year, played in the 2019 US Open Junior.

Flashback: Carol gets US Open slot

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

On this day last year, Carol Lee made history for CNMI tennis, as she was able to secure a slot on the main draw of the US Open (Juniors) in New York.

Lee became the first player from the Commonwealth to have seen action in the Grade A event under the Junior ITF World Circuit. The then 17-year-old Lee advanced to the 132-player draw after beating Hibah Shaikh of the U.S., 6-2, 6-3, in the second qualifying game. Earlier in her first qualifying match, the CNMI bet pulled off an upset over No. 16 seed Tara Malik of the U.S., 6-3, 6-4, to move one win away from notching one of the eight qualifying slots in the prestigious tournament.

With her pair of victories, Lee reached the first round of the competition and was pitted against world No. 127 Robin Montgomery, who cruised to a 6-2 triumph in the first set before laboring his way through a 7-5 win in the second.

The US Open was Lee's second Grade A event last year, as she also played in the Australian Open. She went to New York for the US Open less than two months after handing the CNMI a gold medal in the mixed doubles event (with Colin Sinclair) of the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa.

Now, Lee is in Atlanta and will be suiting up for four-time Atlantic Coast Conference champion Georgia Tech in the NCAA Division I. She is included on the Yellow Jackets' 2020-2021 roster released last month and is among the four rookies on the squad.